

1997 The Jerusalem Post

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**Madame secretary**  
Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is given the oath of office by Vice President Al Gore at the Oval Office yesterday, as President Bill Clinton and Albright's daughters (left to right) Alice, Anne and Katy look on. Story, Page 2 (AP)

## PM denies 'Bar-On for Hebron' deal

By SARAH HONG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night emphatically denied that Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri had supported the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general and offered Shas's support for the Hebron agreement in return for a plea-bargain deal.

Channel 1's Ayala Hasson, however, last night pressed on with the report she broke Wednesday night, though she offered no new evidence to back her allegations.

In an interview to Channel 1, Netanyahu stated that, "Deri never proposed or recommended Bar-On in any manner whatsoever. He did not recommend him or press for his appointment. These bizarre reports are out and out lies."

"There was no conspiracy and this is an attempt at libel... This is entirely baseless, absolute gibberish. I am astounded that the television should publicize such nonsense. A little more responsibility and professionalism is warranted."

Netanyahu also took a swipe at the rest of the country's press:

"We have a free press in only relative terms. It is run by political opponents. Channel 1 opposed me before the elections and after the elections, and it is hard for them to adjust to the results."

Channel 1 opened its evening news magazine with the assertion that Deri is considering resigning from politics and that he has told Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef he has had enough and asked for his permission to quit. He is to make an announcement about his future on Sunday. Yosef reportedly gave him unstinting support.

Deri could not be reached for comment, but two Shas sources said they do not believe he intends to quit.

Hasson sought to back her story yesterday with a photo of some of the main protagonists gathered around a table. Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman was shown conversing with Bar-On; in a second snapshot Deri appears with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who, Hasson alleged, was in on the deal. The photos, however, were taken at a private wedding celebration this

Tuesday, well after the entire affair was over and after Bar-On had already resigned his short-lived appointment.

Hasson also gave a rundown of events which she submitted as proof of her allegations:

- On January 4, Netanyahu met with several attorneys close to him - David Shimron, Yitzhak Molcho, and Dan Avi-Yitzhak - all of whom opposed the Bar-On appointment.
- The next day, Deri expressed support for the Hebron agreement. Shortly thereafter he heard that Avi-Yitzhak, his own lawyer, was likely to be appointed attorney-general. Furious, Deri then threatened to bring down the government.
- On January 6, Avi-Yitzhak, Lieberman, and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi met with Netanyahu. Hasson did not explain this meeting supports her thesis.
- Hanegbi says the January 6 meeting "was geared to convince Avi-Yitzhak, then the leading can-

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## Kabariti letter to PM calls for renewed dialogue

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti sent a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday, calling for a renewal of the dialogue between the two countries in light of the Hebron accord.

The move ended the strain that has cast a shadow over the relationship during the last several months. The letter was delivered personally to Netanyahu and Levy by Jordan's ambassador Omar Rifai.

Relations between the two countries have been chilly ever since Israel opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September.

The first sign of rapprochement was evident last week when Jordan's King Hussein stopped in Tel Aviv after visiting Gaza to broker a compromise that helped seal

an accord on a Hebron pullback and further IDF pullbacks in the West Bank.

Officials in Jerusalem suggest the challenge for Netanyahu and Hussein would be to revive the close personal relationship which would help revive the bilateral relationship between the two states, which has not been the same since Yitzhak Rabin's death.

Hussein, who revered Rabin for being a clear-eyed realist about moderate and radical forces in the region, did not enjoy the same close relationship with Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres.

The Netanyahu-Hussein personal links suffered a key setback after Hussein blamed the prime minister for an inconclusive end to a White House summit, which occurred in the aftermath of the tunnel incident. At the time,

Continued on Page 20

## Swiss agree to Holocaust memorial fund

ZURICH (Reuter) - Swiss banks and the government, under pressure from world Jewish groups, agreed yesterday to create a Holocaust memorial fund as a goodwill gesture to critics of the neutral country's wartime financial role.

Special Ambassador Thomas Borer, the government's top official for the issue, announced the plan after talks with senior executives of Swiss banks, the central bank, insurance companies and other businesses.

Borer told reporters that details remained to be worked out and no amount of money had been fixed for the fund, the idea of which had been resisted by Bern and the banks for months.

"We certainly hope that this [fund] will be understood as a sign of our goodwill," Borer said, referring to demands from the World Jewish Congress and other critics that Switzerland make a

### Burg receives death threat from Switzerland, Page 22

gesture of remorse for profiting from World War II.

"All the major banks support this idea, as well as other companies," Borer said.

"We did not talk about an amount. It would be premature to bring numbers into play," he added.

In New York, a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress welcomed the announcement and said the group "pledged to work with the Swiss authorities to set up an equitable mechanism and process for this fund." One of the top Swiss bankers, Credit Suisse Group chairman Rainer Gut, had called on Wednesday for a

Continued on Page 20

## Opposition calls for criminal probe into Bar-On affair

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The political system was in turmoil yesterday over what politicians dubbed "Bibi-gate: the deal," which led to the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, according to a Channel 1 report.

Channel 1's crime reporter Ayala Hasson reported that Deri had conditioned Shas's support for the Hebron agreement on Bar-On's receiving the post after Bar-On promised Deri a convenient plea bargain in his trial.

Politicians and legal commentators described the alleged affair as smacking of mafia tactics and organized crime, calling for a police or state inquiry commission into the alleged involvement of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, his office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, Deri and others.

Meretz, the Movement for Quality of Government and the Amital Association urged Acting Attorney-General Edna Arbel to open a criminal investigation.

Police and Arbel are to consider complaints against Bar-On's appointment on Sunday. Arbel will be asked to decide in the coming days whether to instruct police to open an investigation.

Labor's executive yesterday demanded forming a state inquiry commission to probe the Bar-On affair. Labor Secretary-General

Nissim Zvilli said that "if the report is true, then it's the worst case of trying to influence the justice system in exchange for a political price which ever occurred in this country. This goes way beyond a political or partisan fight. For our future and the future of the state, the processes which led to this abortive appointment must be investigated."

Labor MK Haggai Merom said that if the affair is true, "then the prime minister was involved in a

Continued on Page 20

## 'Post' readers rally to help center for the blind

By DAVID RUDGE

Kindhearted Jerusalem Post readers have rallied to the aid of a Safed center for the blind, which

was left without even the sound of music after thieves broke into the premises and stole all the musical instruments.

Lillian Cohen, a senior volunteer helper at the Center for the Advancement of the Blind in the Galilee, city's southern quarter, said they had received many offers of assistance following the publication of the story in the Post, including a call from the British Embassy.

An official at the embassy said British Ambassador David Manning had "been struck by the story and was hoping that he may be able to help in some way."

Staff of the Ramat Hasharon Diersenhaus travel agency have pledged NIS 10,000 to the center, which provides help and training to hundreds of blind youngsters and adults.

"I was so moved by the story in the Post that I brought it to the attention of the staff," said branch manager Terry Kessel.

They immediately decided to forgo the annual excursion and instead donate the money it would cost for the trip - around NIS 10,000 - to the center for the advancement of the blind in Safed," said Kessel.

"We contacted people at the cen-

ter to make the necessary arrangements and we will remain in touch and help them as much as we can," he said.

The thieves struck on January 12, breaking into the center and stealing all the musical instruments in the building, as well as amplifiers and stereo equipment, in what police described as a heartless crime.

They also took kettles, irons, and cooking utensils used to help teach the blind how to cope with daily chores in their own homes. They left staff and students with nowhere to sit after removing all the furniture they could, including sofas, armchairs, tables, and chairs.

For the students in particular, the loss of the musical equipment, used for therapy as well as entertainment, was a bitter blow.

"The center without music is a sad place," said 19-year-old Yoni Beider from Arad, who has been a student at the center for 10 years. He learned to play on an organ at the center and developed a love for music.

Beider, who is completely blind, recently won a scholarship to the prestigious Berkeley School

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Yeshiva students are joined in Hebron by a Jewish group from New Jersey for a march with a Torah from the Machpela Cave to the Shavei Hebron yeshiva in Beit Romano yesterday.

### Two groups plant trees in Hebron

**By HERB KENON**  
While To Bishvat tree planting ceremonies were canceled around the country because of inclement weather, two groups went to Hebron to plant trees in a symbolic attempt to show that the city's Jewish settlement is here to stay.  
Some 60 people from the Women in Green planted three large trees near Beit Hadassah. Women in Green leader Nadia Matar said the three trees were meant to symbolize that "all agreements are reversible, except for the covenant linking the people of Israel, to the Torah of Israel, and the Land of Israel."

Matar said after Monday's ceremony where hundreds of people tore their clothes in mourning over the transfer of most of Hebron to the PA, "we had to come immediately and have a ceremony that would symbolize hope, and the belief in the continuation of the settlement in Hebron. We wanted to show the people in Hebron that the people of Israel did not sign the agreement, but that it was signed only by a corrupt leadership which does not represent them anymore."  
In addition to the Women in Green, a group of some 50 members of the Likud Central Committee, headed by MK Uzi Landau, planted trees in Kiryat Arba, Beit Hagai and Hebron.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover told the group that "not one meter has been built [in Kiryat Arba] since Netanyahu came to power. I ask upon you to turn to the prime minister and ask why he is not building in Kiryat Arba, why there are no permits, why there are no plans."  
A group of Jews from Teaneck, New Jersey also went to Hebron for a ceremony marking the dedication of a new Torah they donated to the Shavei Hebron yeshiva.  
Yeshiva students and their guests marched with the Torah and Israeli flags from Machpela Cave to Shuhada Street and the yeshiva, located in Beit Romano.

### Weather still causing disruptions; Kinneret barely rises

**By DAVID RUDGE**  
Mop-up operations continued in the Ra'anana, Kfar Sava and Herzliya areas yesterday as residents counted the cost of flood damage from torrential rain in the region on Wednesday.  
Heavy rain continued in many places yesterday, with the southern district bearing the brunt of the winter storms. Several roads in the Arava and Negev were closed due to flash floods and stranded

motorists, including four army reservists, had to be rescued.  
The four were rescued from the roof of their car which got stuck in a flood on the Ze'elim Bridge.  
An Elite truck got stuck yesterday afternoon in a huge puddle in the Ein Gedi region, and the driver had to be rescued from the roof of the vehicle. Police closed the road between Neveh Zohar and Ein Gedi after floodwaters from nearby Nahal Hever washed over the road.  
The rain, which was expected to

die out today did not, however, help improve the level of water in Lake Kinneret.  
Zvi Ortenberg, head of the Lake Kinneret Authority, said there had been far less precipitation in the North than in central and southern districts.  
"As a result the level of water in the Kinneret has only risen by two centimeters, although we hope the inflow will further increase this in the coming days," said Ortenberg.  
"The level of water in the lake has

only gone up by three centimeters throughout the winter so far, which is not very good news," he said.  
The water mark yesterday stood at 211.55 meters below sea-level - just 1.45 above the minimum mark.  
Staff of the Mt. Hermon ski site said the wintry weather had helped re-cover the peak in snow following the snowfalls last week. The site will be open over the weekend for visitors, but staff said there is still insufficient snow for proper skiing.

## French court orders Papon to stand trial

**By ELDAD BECK**

PARIS - France's highest court yesterday approved an earlier ruling of a district court ordering Maurice Papon, a senior officer of the Vichy police, to stand trial for alleged crimes against humanity committed during World War II.  
Papon, 86, is accused of ordering the arrest and deportation of 1,690 Jews to Nazi death camps, between 1942 and 1944. His trial, the first involving an official of the Vichy regime accused of crimes against humanity, could begin as early as next autumn.



Maurice Papon, in this 1991 file photo, will stand trial in France for crimes against humanity.

The French High Court yesterday rejected Papon's appeal of the previous ruling of a Bordeaux court. Papon's lawyers claimed during the appeal 10 days ago that their client could not be tried for crimes against humanity, since he had not been a member of the Nazi party or the Gestapo, nor had he adhered to the Nazi ideology. According to his lawyers, Papon was a senior official who had to execute orders given by his superiors.  
The prosecutor responded that Papon, who served as the police commander in the Gironde southern region, could have resigned. However, he did not do so, and preferred executing orders "efficiently." Papon's consciously participating in the implementation of a well-organized plan, as was the Final Solution, is sufficient reason to press such charges against him, stressed the prosecutor.

government service after the war and even served as Paris police chief in the 1950s under De Gaulle, and as budget minister in the 1970s.  
Under instructions of the late president, François Mitterrand, the French justice system had slowed down all legal procedures against Vichy officials who participated in the deportation of Jews, hoping that these persons will die of natural causes before they can be tried.

However, with the election of Jacques Chirac in May 1995, the French establishment's position radically changed. For the first time since WW II, Chirac recognized the responsibility of the French state for crimes against and persecution of Jews during the war. Chirac also gave instructions to avoid any political involvement in juridical procedures taken against Papon.  
The only Frenchman ever tried for crimes against humanity, for his role in killing Jews under Nazi occupation, was Paul Touvier. However, Touvier - who commanded the French pro-Nazi militia in the Lyon region, was not an official of the Vichy administration.  
Leaders of the French Jewish community welcomed the decision regarding Papon's trial. The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) expressed the hope that the trial will help educate French youth.  
Papon blasted the High Court's decision, denouncing the "political character of a scandalous trial." Comparing his case to the Dreyfuss Affair, Papon said in a communique that he was a victim of a "plot" masterminded by a whole range of political bodies, "from the communists up to the summit of the state, involving foreign institutions."

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Hadassah celebrates its 85th anniversary by inaugurating the first annual "Women of Distinction" awards.  
In the tradition of Henrietta Szold, Hadassah's founder, these six women have dared to dream, and then do what others said could not be done. Their courage, determination, discipline, and vision have changed people's lives.  
Their example inspires us all.





# Brodet confirms plans to resign

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet yesterday confirmed his plans to resign.

Brodet, who did not give a date but said it would be "soon," was speaking to reporters after addressing Hadassah's National Board members, who are meeting for their mid-winter conference.

Brodet, who is chairman of the academic advisory board of the Hadassah College of Technology, told the 200 members he was excited about Israel's transition to "a fully market-oriented economy."

This market economy has absorbed the large wave of immigration, which since 1990 has constituted some 15 percent of the population, said Brodet, with the result that only 7% of new immigrants are unemployed.

Describing Israel as "the second Silicon Valley" Brodet said, "What Israelis are doing in terms of R&D is now known all over the world" he boasted. "In the last four years," he said, "exports of technology grew by over 400% in dollar terms."

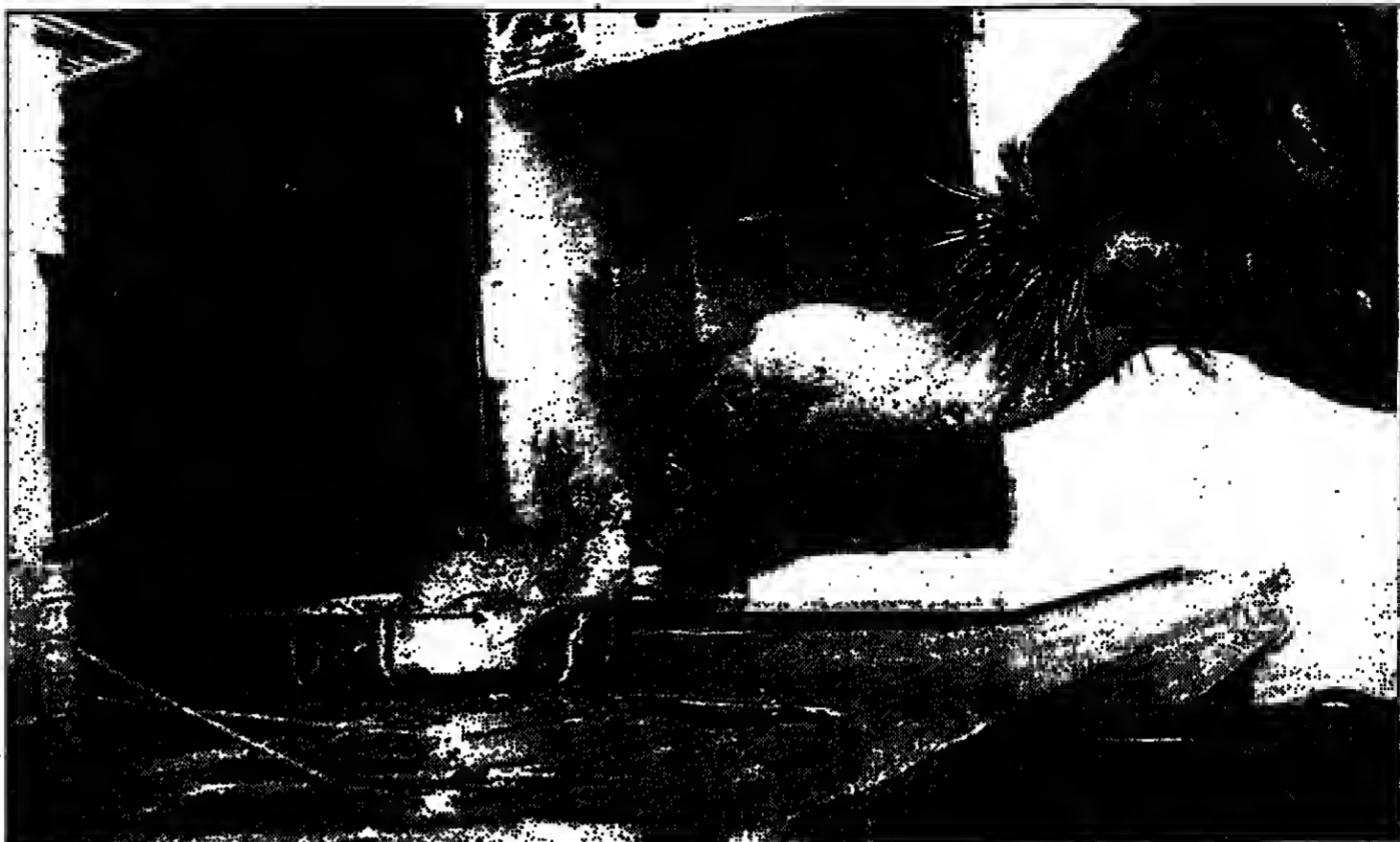
# TAU zoologists save vultures from extinction

By JUDY SIEGEL

Tel Aviv University zoologists are playing mother hen with griffon vultures living on the Carmel and have brought them back from near-extinction. Taking eggs laid in the wild or in zoos, the scientists have set up a hatchery and are now waiting for the latest generation of chicks to break out of their shells; they will then place them in the nests of adoptive vulture couples and - in a few months - transfer them to cages on the Carmel and then free them.

Zoology Prof. Amos Ar and graduate student Ohad Hatzofe, along with the Rothschild Foundation and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, are carrying out this urgent work. Their basic research, the first of its kind on predatory birds, has produced discoveries about the vulture embryos' metabolism and eco-physiology, which are being implemented in the hatching project.

Forty-five years after vultures disappeared from the Carmel, they can again be seen standing guard at Nahal Oren or gliding over the range of hills near Haifa. Most of the vultures of the Galilee, the Golan, and the Negev have disappeared, partly due to their lack of success in multiplying naturally. Although there are over 100 vultures in the Gamla nature reserve, they produced only nine chicks in the past year, Ar said. The vultures reach sexual maturity between the ages of four and six years. They are monogamous, and the females lay only one egg a year. The couples court, build nests, and mate between November and January, then incubate their egg (averaging 240 grams) until March. If the egg hatches, the chick remains in the nest for about 110 days and even afterwards is fed by its parents or accompanies them on flights during a period of several weeks. Because of the heavy parental investment in a single chick, any interference with nesting or harm



A newborn vulture chick is fed by an adoptive mother at Tel Aviv University's experimental hatchery.

(Eyal Bar-Tov)

to the egg may cause the loss of a whole year; helicopter training near the breeding colony has caused adult vultures to abandon their nests, Ar said. Too-hot or -cold temperatures can also harm the embryo or the chick.

Since male and female vultures cannot be differentiated by sight, the TAU scientists conduct chromosome tests to create a matched pair and prevent the mating of siblings, which could result in birds with genetic defects.

So far, the project has matched 12 pairs in the university's zoological park, but only seven females have produced fertile eggs.

The vulture chick is hatched helpless, unable to stand on its own legs and fly, but it is covered with white down and opens its eyes immediately after leaving the egg.

The scientists found that many eggs in their labs never hatch, because in Ramat Aviv the humidity does not have enough moisture inside the shell compared to those on the Carmel. They learned to pierce the shells with tiny needle holes, which has increased the hatching rate to 90%. Once hatched, and weighing some 170 grams, the chicks are adopted by vulture couples.

To identify and follow them in the wild, the scientists bleach a few feathers with blond hair dye and attach tiny transmitters, Ar noted, so the scientists can always keep track of their feathered offspring.

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Date: 16-17 February

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Faculty: Prof. Phyllis K. Chen, Faculty of Management

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Faculty: Prof. Phyllis K. Chen, Faculty of Management

Date: 23-24 February

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Date: 27-28 March

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Faculty: Prof. Phyllis K. Chen, Faculty of Management

Date: 27-28 March

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Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

Date: 12-13 February

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#### The Venture Capitalists: How We Decide

Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

Date: 12-13 February

A seminar for entrepreneurs and professionals who are interested in the venture capital industry. Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

### A WORLD OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Managing Professionals

Faculty: Prof. Moshe Banai

Date: 10 March

Conflicts between bureaucrats and professionals abound in organizations. Human Resource Management professor Moshe Banai, consultant to Boeing, Hilton and other multinationals, will expound on how to turn friction into mutual trust. This Seminar is conducted in Hebrew.

#### Interviewing Skills

Faculty: Gideon Nafrah

Date: 19 March

Gideon Nafrah, a psychologist, will expound on the psychology of the establishment and the sophisticated interviewing process. This Seminar is conducted in Hebrew.

#### Staffing a Subsidiary Abroad

Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

Date: 19 March

A seminar for entrepreneurs and professionals who are interested in staffing a subsidiary abroad. Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

#### Managing International Teams

Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

Date: 19 March

A seminar for entrepreneurs and professionals who are interested in managing international teams. Faculty: Prof. Rami Elitzur

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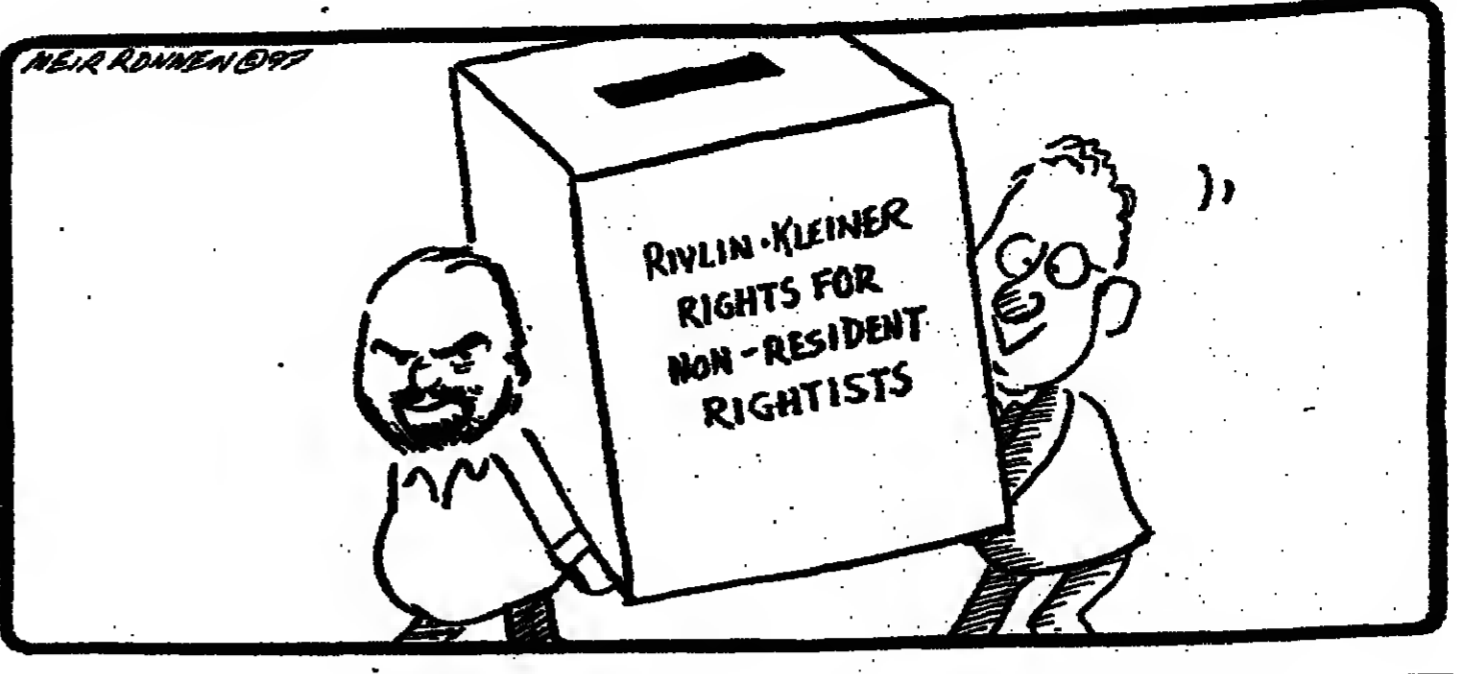
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Thinking the unthinkable

Speculation is rampant as to whether the delicate verbal minutiae between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and adviser David Bar-Ilan amounts to a trial balloon on the question of Palestinian statehood...
Spectation is rampant as to whether the delicate verbal minutiae between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and adviser David Bar-Ilan amounts to a trial balloon on the question of Palestinian statehood - a theory both Netanyahu and Bar-Ilan have denied. The more significant question is not whether Netanyahu is trying to soften public opinion on the issue, but whether Israel is making a slow-motion concession that makes previous government concessions pale in comparison.



The Palestine Army is here

If Israel's security is to depend largely on the demilitarization of a Palestinian state, Israelis should be worried. Historically, demilitarization has not been successful: the territory is eventually remilitarized. The Palestinian Authority leadership will not willingly accept the humiliating and inhibiting servitude implied by demilitarization. Yasser Arafat will accede only for the sake of appearances, until such time as he can subvert the final agreement...
Bernard Smith: An Arab country without an army is unthinkable. It would be the laughingstock of the Arab world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL BASHER

Sir - You identify Neal Sher, whose lengthy diatribe, "A Jewish thought policeman," against ZOA President Morton Klein you published on January 10, as a "former director of the Office of Special Investigations in the US Justice Department."...

DOWN'S SYNDROME

Sir - An extremely painful error appeared in the article on the ESRA Community TV programs by Matt Rees in Time Out on Friday, January 18. Dekel Shikarti, the boy with Down's syndrome, is a proud, confident and wonderful person, with a fantastic sense of humor and with oodles of talent.

GRATITUDE TO ALLIES

Sir - I read Joseph Bornstein's letter of January 7, "The hunger winter," and would like to emphasize for his benefit and that of all Allies who made such a truly heroic effort to alleviate that hunger, that now, more than half a century later, I still remember as if it were yesterday our joy and gratitude at being on the receiving end of that wonderful humanitarian endeavor.

At the heart of a quiet revolution

PERHAPS the most striking thing about the Hebron redeployment was the speed with which the public and the media conspired to the category of old news. Within a day or two, Hebron was forgotten and attention turned to the next problem: inflated salaries in the public sector. The aftermath of Hebron is significant because it reflects the quiet revolution that has overtaken Israeli thinking about relations with the Palestinians. At the heart of that revolution is the idea of a Palestinian state, which was once so far beyond the pale that those who advocated it were branded as traitors. But it has now become part of establishment thought.

Advertisement for 'ophi tour' and 'JORDAN' with various travel offers and contact information.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Keeping the cards he needs to play the game

Despite appearances to the contrary, the prime minister does have a strategy in dealing with the Palestinians...

GERALD M. STEINBERG

aircraft and tank movements in the event of war; their state could also be a base for terrorism. But if, during the negotiations, Israel continues to control large areas in the disputed territory...

Netanyahu's policies in the Hebron negotiations may have saved the peace process

BYOND a Palestinian state, what are the options for final status? Some, including a limited state, have already been discussed by Netanyahu and his adviser David Bar-Ilan...

are given the choice of a freeze in the process, with Israel still controlling at least 50 percent of the territory, or federation...

THIS IS the real importance of the changes in the original agreements. The changes pertaining to security within Hebron are secondary.

By delaying the last and most important stage until mid-1988, Netanyahu has the next 18 months to test Palestinian intentions.

If, during this time, Arafat insists on a fully sovereign state as the only option - or threatens to declare a state unilaterally - the Israeli side can maintain its current deployments.

Contrary to the "conventional wisdom," Israel's policies in the Hebron negotiations may actually have saved the peace process.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.



Shame, spit, and an oversized shoe

One way or another, the abuse of women is never far from the headlines. Rich or poor, religious or secular, high school dropouts or PhDs, women are victims of men.

ancient law allowed him to perform the ceremony of halitza, thereby releasing his sister-in-law to marry another man. In the post-talmudic period there was a dispute over whether halitza was actually preferable to levirate marriage...

All to no avail. The family, prominent in the Paris Jewish community, refused to free Cohen. Years went by; Cohen's biological time clock ticked on.

suffering. Always the brother-in-law and/or his family attempted to blackmail the widow. Childless widows aren't so rare in our society. What happened to Cohen could happen to any Jewish woman...

SHARON SHENHAV

God bless America

UTOPIA is a small country situated somewhere in the Mediterranean. Next year it celebrates its 50th anniversary. It is a country with few insurmountable problems; it enjoys interesting relations with its neighbors...

SHLOMO AVINERI

crowd in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Utopian delegation was unable to elicit the response of the tens of millions of non-Christian American citizens - Jews, Moslems, Buddhists et al -

help me God." And President Clinton concluded his eloquent inauguration speech, to which he condemned all racial and religious bigotry, with the words "And always, always, God Bless America."

OUR baffled Utopians are still undecided over how to evaluate what they saw. Is the US a secular country masquerading as a religious one, or a religious country masquerading as a secular one?

Is America a secular country masquerading as a religious one, or a religious country acting like a secular one?

to this gracious benediction. The beautiful music that accompanied the ceremony was produced mostly by church choirs. A medley of patriotic songs, rendered also by a powerful woman soloist, included many religious motifs like the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," in which angels are portrayed standing by America.

Is it a country which combines the separation of church and state with a deep commitment to religious symbolism at public ceremonies, including the symbol of the Trinity? Or is it a society where citizens are comfortable with these contradictions and don't lose any sleep over them?

The citizens of Utopia are eagerly awaiting publication of the delegation's conclusions. Will Utopia go ahead and follow the American example? If it does, we might even see Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie (noted kabbalist, he of the election incantations and invocations) being invited to open the country's 50th anniversary celebrations next year.

The author teaches political science at the Hebrew University.

The exciting news had reached them that, by dint of erecting a wall separating religion from the public sphere, the Americans had succeeded in guaranteeing religious freedom for the individual without impinging on the wider arena.

The Torah enjoins us not to oppress the widow. Yet Jewish widows are open to a terrible form of abuse

who wished to remarry. The ceremony could take place in any rabbinical court anywhere recognized by the Israeli rabbinical establishment.

So Cohen contacted her brother-in-law, who lived in Paris, requesting halitza. She encountered stony refusal. His parents declared that since her son had lost his life, they would not assist his widow to have one.

which agreed to help enforce the order. This threat seemed to work. Finally, in November, after a last-minute attempt by the family to extort even more money from Cohen, she and her lawyer entered a Paris room filled with rabbis and yeshiva students for the halitza ceremony.

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Advertisement for Ophir Tours, featuring travel packages to Jordan, Madeira, New York, Vienna, and various cruise options. Includes phone numbers and contact information.

Advertisement for Reidman International Center for Complementary Medicine, featuring a list of services including Reflexology, Energy Healing, Body Balancing, and Massage Therapy. Includes contact information for their Jerusalem and Tiberias centers.

# Violence erupts over media in Serb town

KRAGUJEVAC, Serbia (AP) - Police beat up protesters in a central Serbian town yesterday during a face-off over control of local media, and the mayor warned that violence could spiral. Hundreds of police had barricaded themselves inside the radio and TV station in Kragujevac, about 150 km south of Belgrade, to prevent their takeover by new city officials. Thousands of opponents to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic surrounded them, threatening to use force to enter.

About 30 cars and trucks blocked traffic on the main road between Kragujevac and Belgrade yesterday afternoon. But some 60 riot policemen charged with batons, badly beating up two protesters and breaking up the blockade.

Police also confiscated Associated Press Television footage of the incident.

Kragujevac was won by opponents of Milosevic in Nov. 17 local elections. In contrast to his treatment of many other cities and towns in Serbia, Milosevic has allowed the opposition to take power there.

Control of the media is a central issue in the struggle between Milosevic and the opposition.

Whoever wins city hall controls local radio and television stations.

Milosevic has used a monopoly on the media to maintain support, especially in provincial towns and rural areas. He needs to have control of the media message this year as Serbia prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections.

Negotiations on the handing over of the station, which started after midnight, failed and that the protests will continue, local opposition leader Aleksandar Radosavljevic said.

"Tensions are extremely high," said Borivoje Radic, the new head of municipal government in Kragujevac. "The television has done us a lot of harm, and now it can lead us to open clashes with the police."

Radic said opposition supporters, who have been blocking the radio and TV building since Wednesday, were furious. They were threatening to seal Kragujevac off if the station is not handed over soon.

Police entered the station Wednesday, saying they were protecting the studios pending a court ruling on the official Serbian media's challenge

of the handover.

In Belgrade, protesting students spent their fourth consecutive night facing a heavily armed police cordon that has been preventing their marches against Milosevic.

Despite freezing weather, students kept their spirits high by singing, dancing and staging an overnight party in the city center.

The protests are entering their 10th week since authorities annulled opposition victories in the local elections. No resolution to the dispute is in sight.

This week, lawmakers from Milosevic's governing Socialists started legal proceedings against the Belgrade electoral commission, which has twice insisted that the opposition won the city council in the Serbian capital.

The commission has not backed down, and on Wednesday gave the opposition four more seats than it previously had reckoned. That gave the opposition 64 seats in the 110-seat city council, compared to 27 for the Socialists. Other parties were awarded the rest of the seats.

Belgrade courts controlled by Milosevic have overturned the commission's findings.



Public enemy?

A Scottish highlander race veal and a cow imported from Britain stand in a meadow near Berlin. Germany has announced that all British and Swiss cattle will be slaughtered to calm public fears after a case of mad cow disease was reported in Germany. (Reuters)

## Austria's parliament salutes Vranitzky

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austria's outgoing chancellor Franz Vranitzky yesterday bade farewell to parliament after nearly 11 years in power, winning applause from most deputies but a cold shoulder from the far right.

Vranitzky, 59, who resigned on Saturday in a decision which took the nation by surprise, thanked the assembly for its work and ended a downbeat speech with the words: "Long live the Republic!"

Parliamentarians from the ruling Social Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner, the conservative People's Party, rose from their seats to salute the man who has led them since June 1986.

Members of the leftist Greens and centrist Liberal Forum party applauded politely but far-right Freedom Party deputies kept silent.

Vranitzky, Europe's longest-serving leader after German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, named finance minister Viktor Klima as his successor as chancellor and Social Democratic Party leader.

Klima, 49, who was present in parliament with most of the current cabinet, is now shuffling Social Democrat ministerial portfolios, easing out leftwingers in favor of moderates.

Austrian media reports said Klima had almost completed his cabinet lineup ahead of a formal swearing-in ceremony expected next Tuesday but the post of finance minister was still empty.

Vranitzky's term in office has been shadowed by the rise of far-right leader Joerg Haider, who yesterday denied his party had held talks with conservatives about forming a government.

Haider said his anti-immigration party would only consider talks on joining a coalition after fresh elections.

While the Social Democrat vote has slumped since Vranitzky took over in 1986 - dipping below 30 percent in European elections last October - support for the far right has risen sharply from around nine percent ten years ago before Haider became leader.

Vranitzky told parliament he had often been criticized in the past for being too much of a consensus politician.

"I always wanted to avoid tensions...and rather look for harmony when the situation was difficult," he said.

Vranitzky said at the weekend that perhaps his greatest achievement was to guide Austria into the European Union and turn a flat economy into one of Europe's best performers.

He has been credited for repairing the country's image after the controversial presidency of Kurt Waldheim, who was accused of obscuring his past in Hitler's army.

Vranitzky also apologized to Jews, saying Austria shared responsibility for the horrors committed by the Nazi regime.

## Bulgarian opposition continues protests

SOFIA (Reuters) - Bulgarian opposition supporters held a 17th day of protests yesterday as new president Petar Stoyanov met leaders of warring political factions to seek a way out of a deadlock blocking formation of a new government.

Stoyanov, who took office on Wednesday, held separate, hour-long meetings with the opposition and leaders of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), which has the majority in parliament, but there was no immediate sign of a breakthrough.

The constitution requires the president to ask the ex-communist Socialists to form a new government but the opposition

wants a quick general election.

About 2,000 students held their daily rally by the Sofia university, singing and dancing to rock music, while about 200 doctors protested outside the health ministry to demand better pay and resources.

About 18,000 people gathered in the early evening outside Sofia's gold-domed Orthodox cathedral for the opposition's daily rally.

Trade unions, opposition parties and students met to coordinate their protests. A joint statement reiterated their demand for elections and threatened nationwide protests if the Socialists formed a new cabinet.

## Bavarian city panics over toxic cloud

MEMMINGEN, Germany (AP) - Nine people were hurt, schools were closed and fearful residents in this Bavarian city stayed home yesterday to avoid a toxic cloud caused by a factory fire.

An unidentified 35-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of setting fire to a chemical factory outside this city of 81,000 people.

Smoke billowed from the factory and formed into a cloud containing ammonia and hydrocyanic acid that started to drift toward the city, police said.

Police told Memmingen residents to stay in their homes and keep their doors and windows shut as 300 firefighters sought to put out the blaze.

Three schools were closed and four houses near the factory were evacuated. The all-clear came after six hours when the toxic cloud dispersed.

Seven police officers and two firefighters had to be treated for smoke and toxic fume inhalation, police said.

## Defense: Simpson victim of tampering

SANTA MONICA (AP) - A defense attorney told jurors yesterday that O.J. Simpson was a victim of "corruption, contamination, planting and tampering."

Working to dismantle the evidence in the wrongful death case against the actor and former football star, attorney Robert Blasier said the survivors of Simpson's slain ex-wife and her friend have pinned their case on inaccurate facts and tainted evidence.

"We have maintained from the very beginning of this case that you can't rely on this physical evidence... What you picked up off the ground was not necessarily what went to the crime lab, he said. "That's what this whole case is about."

"We have a picture of corruption, contamination, planting and tampering," he said.

The families of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson blame Simpson for the June 12, 1994, deaths and want the jury to find

him liable and award millions in damages. In October 1995, Simpson was acquitted of murdering the two.

The pace of the trial slowed a bit Thursday after defense attorney Robert Baker asked the judge for more time for closing arguments. The judge has long planned to be away from the courthouse Friday, so rebuttal by the plaintiffs' attorneys and jury instructions will be pushed back to Monday, with the jury getting the case Monday afternoon.

On Wednesday, Baker also told jurors Simpson was a victim of police wrongdoing, demonized by cynical attorneys bent on winning at all costs, and above all, innocent.

Baker contended Simpson had no motive to kill Ms. Simpson, no time to kill Ms. Simpson, no time even, in his busy work schedule, to stalk Ms. Simpson.

Everything from Simpson's demeanor before and after the killings to the sloppy way incriminating evidence was left lying around proves that the plaintiffs' theory makes no sense, Baker argued.

Baker spoke after plaintiffs' attorneys spent a day and a half imploring jurors to find Simpson, the former American football star, responsible, and to strip him of his fortune.

"This isn't a fight for justice, it's a fight for money," Baker said. "We have witnessed a character assassination. They want you to believe O.J. Simpson is a bad person."

Baker picked apart the plaintiffs' time line for the killings and said it made no sense. He said Simpson would have to be a "bumbling idiot" to drop evidence at the crime scene and his estate while managing to dispose of the all-important bloody clothes, shoes and murder weapon.

Baker also suggested if Simpson had been the killer, he would not have driven to the scene in a large sport utility vehicle, which he

described as "this big white elephant."

Baker accused the plaintiffs of playing on jurors' emotions with their final arguments, replete with poetry and stirring images of the victims in life and in death.

Earlier, spectators and family members wept quietly as plaintiffs' attorneys played a videotape of a smiling, laughing Goldman and audiotapes of a frantic Ms. Simpson seeking help from police to save her from spousal abuse.

"True justice would be to see Ron Goldman walk through that door or Nicole Brown Simpson playing with her children," attorney Daniel Petrocelli said. "That is not going to happen. They are gone forever."

Only one in four Americans believe in Simpson's innocence, according to an Associated Press poll. Just 18 percent of whites - but 58 percent of blacks - think his acquittal 15 months ago was the right verdict.



O.J. Simpson (Reuters)



Fred Goldman (Reuters)

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear aunt  
**BETTY SHELLINSKY** ז"ל  
from Chicago, Illinois  
The Barach, Firestone, and Levy families  
We express our condolences to the Barach and Klein families abroad.

**Yeshivat Aish HaTorah,  
The Jerusalem Fellowships**  
mourn the tragic passing of  
**GREG LEWIS**  
and express our sincere condolences to the family.  
חמקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
THE ALEXANDER SILBERMAN INSTITUTE OF LIFE SCIENCES  
To Millie and Jerry Sudarsky  
Please accept our deep sorrow and condolences  
on the loss of your daughter  
**DANA**

The consecration of the *matzevoth* for our mother  
**RACHEL (RAY) GUTTENTAG** ז"ל  
and our father  
**GEDALIAH DAVID GUTTENTAG** ז"ל  
(reinterred from Newcastle-on-Tyne)  
will take place next Friday, January 31 at 10 a.m.  
at Sanhedria Cemetery.  
Guttentag and  
Steinberg families

**SYBIL KAPLAN**  
passed away in Los Angeles on January 13, 1997,  
after a long illness.  
Remembered by her children Aba, Phillip, Jillian,  
and her in-laws and grandchildren.

On the occasion of the unveiling of the monument for our  
beloved father  
**Rabbi MEIR BOGNER** ז"ל  
of Washington, D.C.  
Family and friends will gather at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery  
on Sunday, January 26, 1997 (18 Shvat 5757).  
We will meet at the entrance gate at approximately 2:20 p.m.  
A bus to the cemetery will leave from Yeshivat Knesset Yehuda,  
Sanhedria Hamenuhot, at 2 p.m.  
For transportation arrangements please call 02-581-9898.  
The Family

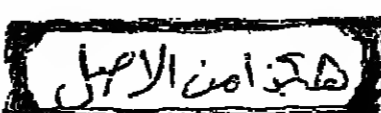
On the third *yahrzeit* of  
**Rabbi JEROME POMERANTZ** ז"ל  
We will hold a memorial service  
on Friday, January 31, 1997, 10:30 a.m.,  
at Har Tamr, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.  
The Family

On the *shloshim* of the passing of our dear mother  
**BETTY GORDON** ז"ל  
(widow of Haim ז"ל)  
a memorial service will take place, in the presence of  
Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau,  
on January 27, 1997 (19 Shvat 5757) at 8 p.m., at the  
Beit Yitzchak Synagogue, Nerot Shabbat, Ramot, Jerusalem.  
Mourning by her children:  
Oizer and Leah Zelwer  
Moshe and Vicki Gordon  
and families

Bnei I...

The Jerusalem Post  
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Down and out in Beersheba. Twenty percent of the city's residents live below the poverty level. Nevertheless, 'there is a lot of potential here,' insists David Cohen, head of the Daled neighborhood committee. (Sarit Uziely)

Over 10 percent of Israelis live below the poverty line. Judith Sudilovsky reports from Beersheba

# The poor among us

Yossi Abuhatzera is 13 years old and doesn't own a ball - his parents, Rutie and David, can't afford to buy him one. He says he wants to be a soccer player when he grows up but his parents don't have the NIS 300 needed for him to join the local soccer league, at the Beersheba neighborhood Daled community center, let alone the additional NIS 350 to buy the team uniform.

Instead of going out and playing soccer with the neighborhood boys, he prefers to stay inside the house. In their cruelty, the other boys tease Yossi by not allowing him to play with their ball. Even in a poor neighborhood like Daled, there is a hierarchy of poverty. "I stay here and help my mom," Yossi said. He is wearing blue sweat pants and a faded green T-shirt. "I don't like going outside with my friends. They laugh at me because of my clothes. They laugh at the clothes my father wears. They all laughed at me because I didn't get any gold for my bar mitzva. It makes me feel bad."

When he talks about not being able to buy a ball and how the other children treat him, his eyes begin twitching nervously.

Rutie has back, arm and leg problems and has been unable to work for several years. David, a former drug addict who served time in prison, can't find a job. They and their five children live off a total NIS 2,800 they receive from the National Insurance Institute, including their child allowance.

They haven't paid their NIS 65 electricity bill for four months and the electric company has threatened to cut them off. It is so long since they paid their water bill they are NIS 2,200 in arrears. There are days when Rutie doesn't have money to buy diapers for her one-year-old, so she tears up sheets to use instead. There is a bowl of fresh fruit on the kitchen table, but bread and chocolate spread is the main staple of their diet. Rutie has stopped eating dinner altogether so there will be enough food for her children. On Fridays, they have chicken and sometimes a neighbor sends over some rice and potatoes. "In my worst dreams I never thought I would be living like this. I wanted a better life," said Rutie, who since the age of 12 lived in institutions and foster homes.

Her father was recently hospitalized in Holon but she doesn't have

the money to pay for the bus fare to visit him. She doesn't have a telephone so she can't even call to find out about his condition. "Every day I think about how I am going to get out of this and I have no answers. In front of my neighbors I can laugh and smile, but I cry all night. I want my children to have normal clothes and to eat like they should. I want them to study and get a good education so they can find good jobs."

**Rutie has stopped eating dinner so there will be enough food for her children.**

The Abuhatzeras are among the 208,000 poor families living in Israel. According to a report released by the National Insurance Institute, that is an increase of only 3,000 families since 1994. In 1995, the report said, there were a total of 738,000 poor people in Israel, including 329,000 children. The numbers in 1994 were 671,000 and 285,000.

According to the survey the cities with the highest level of poverty were Bnei Brak, Jerusalem and

Beersheba, where 37.7 percent, 24.8% and 20.2% of the people live below the poverty level, respectively. In Bnei Brak almost half (46.1%) of the children live in conditions of poverty. Petah Tikva had the lowest level of poverty amongst individuals with 7.1%, with Ramat Gan (8.4%) and Rishon LeZion (8.9%) the second and third lowest.

For the first time the survey included the non-Jewish sectors of the population living in villages with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, which were previously not studied and which usually have a lower standard of living. Despite the inclusion of this group, the percentage of poor families declined from 18 in 1994 to 16.8 in 1995, said the report. The decrease is even greater - 16.4% - if this new group is excluded from the numbers, with the number of poor families going down from 205,000 to 196,000.

IT IS the first decrease in the poverty level in six years, the report said. According to the report the increase in the number of children living under the poverty level grew due to the fact that the non-Jewish population added to the study tend to have many children.

The level of poverty amongst the elderly decreased from 25.1% in 1994 to 23.5% in 1995. Amongst wage earners poverty slightly increased from 7.2% to 7.8%, mainly because of the inclusion in the survey of wage earners in Arab villages.

Amongst the non-Jewish sector the poverty level decreased steeply according to the survey, from 38.5% in 1994 to 31.2% in 1995. The decrease was due mainly to the decision to give child allowances to all families regardless of their army service and also the influence of the new "war on poverty" plan. Poverty amongst immigrants also declined from 24.3% to 22.1%.

Single-parent families experienced the largest decrease in poverty level going from 36.3% in 1994 to 25.7% in 1995, a one-third decrease. This is also a result of the war on poverty which allocated an up-to-50% increase of funds to these families. On the other hand, the poverty level amongst families with many children increased from

Continued on Page 12

## Bnei Brak's poverty lies in its birthrate

The high poverty rate in Bnei Brak may not come as a surprise to those who look at the size of families and the number of men who study rather than work. But the residents of this mainly religious city see children as a blessing and their numbers increase every year.

Most families have at least four children, the majority have six or seven, but there are also more than a few families with more than 18 children - one family has 23 children. The idea of birth control is not an option for these religious Jews, said Bnei Brak municipal social worker Shimon Milbrod.

"It is a population which will continue to grow and we have to deal with it like all others," he said. "We have to support the birth rate, it is the goal of Israel."

Most men continue their studies through their early 30s, and while the women study to be teachers there is a limit to the number of teachers who can find employment. In addition, many women need to stay home to care for their children.

While the Ministry of Labor and Social

Affairs does offer various employment courses they are not suitable for the population of Bnei Brak because of the times and the locations where they are held, said Shlomit Gidron, director of the Bnei Brak Department of Social Services.

She would like to see courses in computer programming, accounting, flower arranging and small business management held in Bnei Brak itself in the evenings within the framework of the religious society. The municipality has held a few such courses but its funds are spread very thin, she said.

"You can't come to a society and tell them their traditions are not OK. This is a society which is completely different from others in Israel and it is a growing sector," said Gidron, who is secular. "By providing enrichment programs [for employment opportunities] we hope to break out of the circle of poverty."

Nurit and Yosef Tzarfat live in a one-room apartment with their seven children, who range in age from 14 to two. Nurit is in the last months of her eighth pregnancy. When the children

come home from school they are under each other's feet as they crowd into the small room which is used as their living space and bedroom. When it rains the narrow service balcony Nurit uses as additional space gets flooded because the tin roof leaks and she has to close off the area so the water doesn't reach the rest of the apartment.

They live off NIS 2,670 a month they receive from the National Insurance Institute. Yosef, who comes from a religious family but lived a secular lifestyle, served in the army so they receive a higher child allowance rate than families with fathers who did not serve. He has been looking for a kollel to study in, which sometimes also provides additional funds to students, but has not been accepted anywhere yet.

"We live with faith in God," said Nurit. Most days when her children come home from school she feeds them vegetable soup for a treat they get burekas. On Fridays they have fish. Neighborhood committees also provide poor families like the Tzarfat's with some food for Shabbat dinner. J.S.

### The Jerusalem Post & ZOA House Friday Morning Forum QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



**DAVID BAR - ILLAN**  
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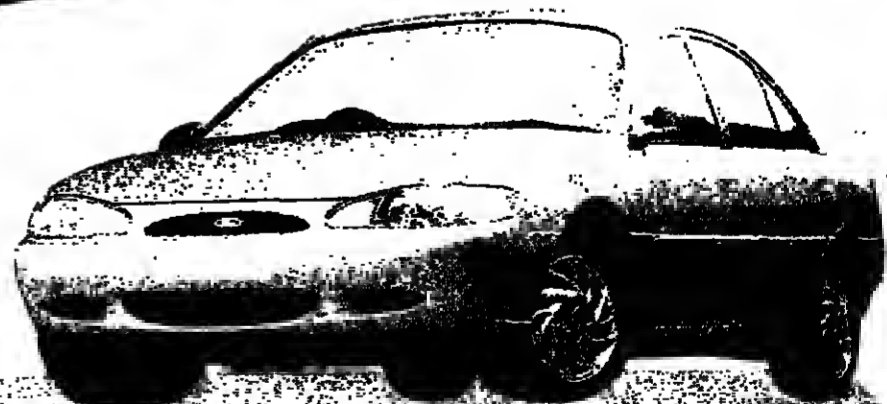
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# On a mission from God

Australian millionaire Habadnik Rabbi Joseph Gutnick is here to express his dismay at Netanyahu's signing of the Hebron agreement, but he has also vowed to cease his support of the Jewish settlement there if Netanyahu asks him to. Herb Keinon spoke to him



Joseph Gutnick believes that he has a right to donate to Jewish causes in Israel. I am a Jew, and things that happen here affect what happens to Jews in Australia, Argentina and Brazil.

If Joseph Gutnick, the patron of the "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" campaign of the last election, were to rephrase that slogan today, it would likely be along the lines of "Netanyahu will probably turn out fine for the Jews, we think."

good for the Jews. I would be disappointed and disillusioned if he will not act favorably towards the settlers. I have in no way lost my confidence in him. I think he made a mistake but that he has a lot of good will."

comes to raising funds abroad for candidates or political causes in Israel, tends to look at Gutnick as the nefarious personification of the Diaspora Jew - and he is a hassid to boot - meddling in internal Israeli affairs.

Australia, Argentina and Brazil. There is nothing in the law that says I can't campaign for something that we think is important for the Jews. It is legitimate to donate money to settlers, and I have the right to donate money as I please.

Gutnick stresses that the money he gave was not to the Likud, but to Habad, which decided on the campaign because it felt "a weak Israeli government would be a danger to Israel."

give money," Gutnick replies. "If the court says I don't have a right, that's different. Some people may not like it, but some people don't like many things. It is my democratic right, as long as it is good for the Jews."

**"We want to see concrete moves in Hebron so that the people there should not be so despondent."**

—Joseph Gutnick

Machpela Cave - is "one of the most tragic moments since the establishment of Israel. It is a step backward, a tragic and sad day. We look forward to things moving more positively in the future, and to a time when the Jews will be able to expand in areas under our control."

The settlers in Hebron, says Gutnick, one of the primary patrons of the settlement there, "are a fact of life. If you frustrate them, there won't be peace. They will agitate; peace is two-way - especially when you are talking about one of our four holy cities."

The solution, he says, is to begin immediately building in the Jewish part of Hebron. "We want to see concrete

Continued on Page 20

## Should Israel let its prisoners go?

Like an unwanted relative who cannot be left off the guest list, the Great Pardon Debate casts its shadow over the festivities every time Israel throws a party.

**Evelyn Gordon investigates whether a general amnesty should be granted, allowing the incarcerated to share in the country's 50th birthday celebrations**

that everyone should participate in the joy, [an amnesty] is a very lovely expression of this," said Prof. Leon Sheff of Tel Aviv University's law school.

30th birthday), and the government also decided against amnesties in 1982 and 1988 (the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the state).

a professor of criminal law at Hebrew University. "This means you are exposing the public to injury at the hands of these people. It also makes the entire legal system seem not very serious. All it takes is some event in the country's history [to obtain a release from jail]."



had been convicted again within five years. There was also a significant rise in property crimes and disturbances of the peace in the second half of 1967, the studies found. Ben-Yair said it is not coincidental that over half of those pardoned were guilty of either property crimes or disturbing the peace.

noted that these statistics do not differ from those found in normal prisoner releases, however. He also examined a 500-person control group of prisoners released at the normal time, he said, and found that 57% of those prisoners were also back in jail within three years.

raised is that an amnesty can be traumatic for the victim. A national holiday, he said, is no justification for suddenly preferring the criminal's interest to that of either the victim or society as a whole, nor does it alter the reasons for which the criminal was put in jail to begin with.

Continued on Page 20

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# Playgrounds are for prostitutes

Continued from Page 9

37% in 1994 to 40% in 1995. The reason for this increase in numbers, according to the report, was the inclusion of rural Arab families in the survey since this population wasn't included in the war against poverty.

"The data I have presented until now shows a certain decline in the levels of poverty in Israel during 1995 and an improvement of division of incomes in the economy," said the National Insurance Institute director-general Yossi Tamir when he presented the report. "But despite these positive developments, the level of poverty in Israel is still high and we should not be satisfied with this level."

Poverty, he said, is not only an issue of income level but also of the standards of education, health and living conditions and social services offered to the public. It is a national struggle and a challenge which needs resources, thought, and first and foremost determination on the governmental level, he said.

The first step to achieve the goal was taken by the government's decision to set up the Public Council for Closing the Social Gap and War on Poverty, he said.

Still, despite the slightly optimistic picture the survey paints, in places like Beersheba's Daled and Bnei Brak, the decrease of poverty is barely noticeable. There is a dire shortage of funds on all sides - national and municipal - with cut-backs always imminent and no hope for change in sight.

According to David Cohen, the head of a neighborhood committee of one section of Daled, there are no after-school programs for some 90% of the neighborhood children; there are no libraries in the entire neighborhood; and one study showed that 23 percent of the students still did not have the necessary books for schools. Children like Yossi Abuhazera spend their afternoons wandering the streets together with drug dealers and juvenile delinquents because they can't afford the classes offered by the community center and the



(Clockwise from above left): Nili Michaeli finds little to feed her family. With her oldest daughter a drug addict with lupus, she worries about the fate of her youngest girl; life in a decaying Beersheba apartment building: 'Slowly things are being done'; a barefoot street waif plays among the garbage. Parents are afraid to send their children to playgrounds. (Sarit Uziely)

municipality does not provide after-school programs. Playgrounds have broken equipment and garbage is strewn in the

sandboxes. The playgrounds are another haven for drug dealers and prostitutes and parents are afraid to let their children play in them, said

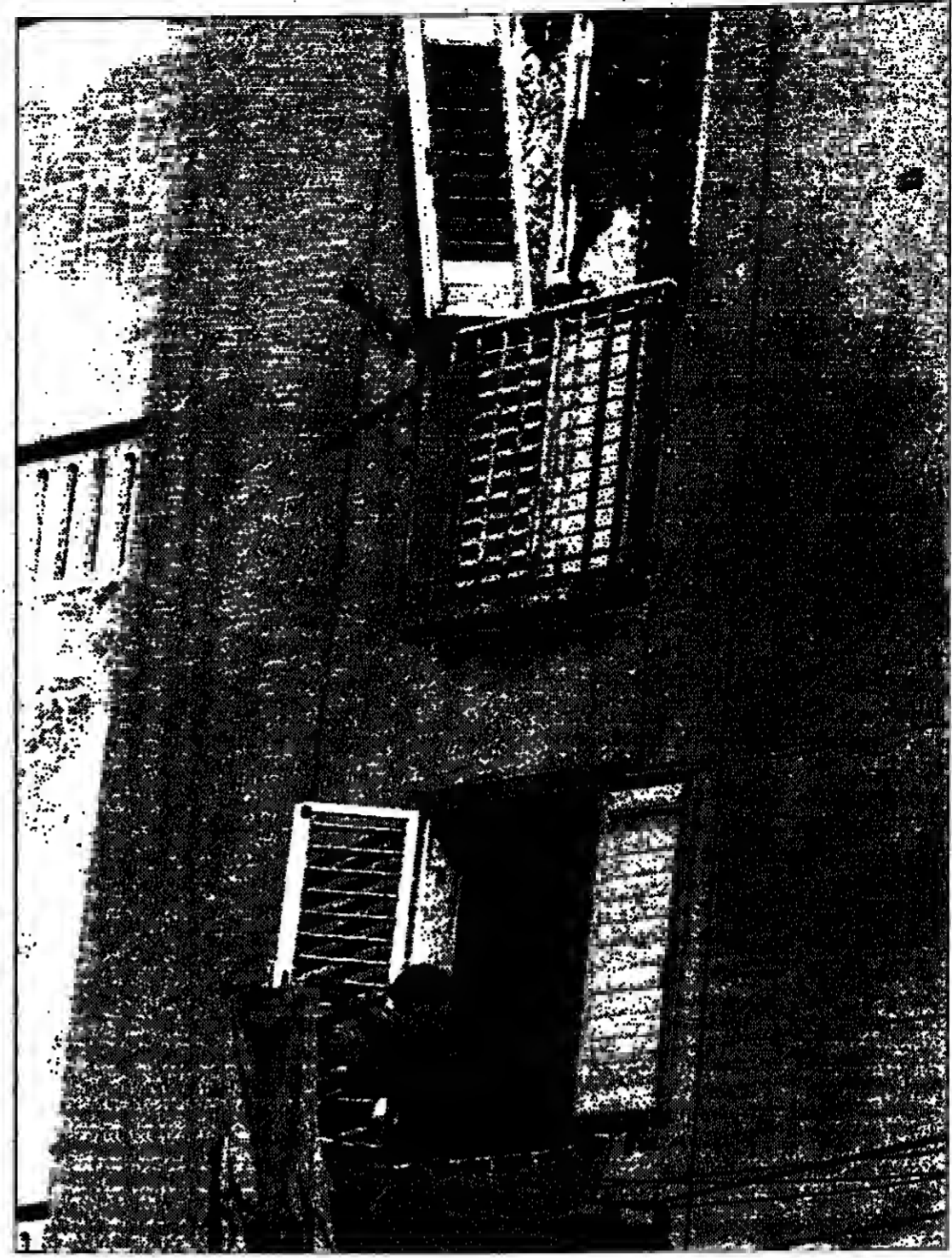
Cohen, 27, an accountant who grew up in the neighborhood and still lives in his family apartment. He is now studying for his MBA at Tel Aviv University.

"Providing them with a good education is the answer. There is a lot of potential here," said Cohen. "Throwing money at them won't help. Maybe they'll have more money to buy food but it is not a long-term solution. I am worried about second- and third-generation poverty. Yossi is a good kid now but I am worried about what will happen to him in a few years."

THE MUNICIPALITY seems to be more interested in building newer, fancier neighborhoods while neglecting the older neighborhoods. Cohen charged. They sell prime land - including areas which used to be playgrounds or commercial centers - in the Daled neighborhood to developers to build housing for Beersheba University students who study a short walk away. This gives nothing to the neighborhood as the developers do not provide an infrastructure for the area and the students are merely transient residents who do not become involved with the community.

Because he is an accountant Cohen was able to read budget reports which indicated that the municipality still had some NIS 30,000 in their coffers given to them by the Ministry of Housing which were earmarked for restoration projects meant to have taken place in 1990, 1991 and 1993.

"Now they have started to move. Slowly things are being done," he said. One of the projects he indicated with the funds was the laying of



a sidewalk for a row of small block houses which had only an uneven dirt road in front of them. The elderly residents used to be stranded in their homes when it rained and their front yards and road turned into a muddy pond.

Beersheba Municipality spokesman Yosef Amnon said he had heard about the allegations of extra money but denied that there were any surplus funds.

With donations he himself gathers Cohen tries to provide needy families with extra food and clothing. He was able to persuade the Montreal Jewish community to increase their financial support for scholarships for university students from the area by 50 percent and in return those students will help their community by providing after-school classes and extra tutoring for children from the neighborhood. Cohen said the municipal welfare department does its best with the little funds it has but there simply are not enough social workers to deal with the problems. There are families who have been working with the social workers for almost 20 years, he said.

"The municipality does a lot for these old neighborhoods but no matter how much we do it is not enough and more needs to be done. They are treated with love and warmth by the social workers," said Amnon. "Beersheba is growing and we have a lot of new neighborhoods, and yes, we are investing in good infrastructure there so that it will withstand even to the year 3000," he said optimistically.

He said the city plans to invest several thousand shekels from Mifal Hapayis to restore a sports court in front of a youth center.



Nili Michaeli, 38, of Daled, has three daughters and works as a seamstress. She divorced her drug-addict husband two years ago and is unable to stay afloat on the NIS 2,500 she receives monthly, partly from her salary and partly from her child allowance for her one daughter who is still a minor.

Her older daughter is a drug addict and sick with lupus, and she is worried that her second daughter, who did not get drafted into the army, will follow in the footsteps of her father and older sister. The girl is not functioning emotionally, refuses to look for work, and spends all her time watching television or out with friends, said Michaeli. She is being treated by a municipal social worker who is trying to get her drafted in order to put her in a structured framework.

"I know the law says I only have to take care of my children until they are 18 but what can I do, throw them out into the street?" said Michaeli.

"They are my daughters. The oldest is sick and I am afraid the second one will start using drugs too. I live ooo wai for my youngest daughter. I never expected this from my life."

She could find a nighttime job to earn more money, she said, but she has no one to leave her six-year-old with. She said she has no time for friends, and at work she never talks about her problems. Only recently has she joined a support group for single parents and that has helped her open up.

"When I run into old friends I feel like they pity me and I don't like that. I don't like walking around feeling like I am pitiful," she said.

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ON THE AGENDA

Back to the ghetto

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Decorating the Hebron Accord as the incarnation of "the destruction of Eretz Yisrael," various rabbis this week ordered the public - in the course of a demonstration outside the Machpela Cave - to rip their clothes, as we Jews do when mourning the loss of a family member.

In Czarist Russia's Pale of Settlement, which not only caged the Jews into a legally defined region and blocked their access to major towns, but also restricted their engagement in free professions within those geographical confines.

Little did most of Zionism's founding fathers realize that this region, too, would first refuse to digest the Jews as benign neighbors, rather than juicy prey. Their hope was that once free in their ancestral land, the Jews would finally find their rightful place among the nations.

Canic pit of nationalist hatred by seeking a dwelling in - of all places - the thick of a densely populated and intensely hostile Arab town is to physically, socially and mentally fortify the old ghetto walls.

A VIEW FROM NOV

By MOSHE KOHN

Comment is free, but facts are sacred. C.P. Scott, editor, The Manchester Guardian, May 6, 1926

David Bar-Ilan, Ruth Willers and me, among others. In his letter, Allen boasts and proclaims: "Rather than embracing any political agenda, we will continue to publish articles that are as close to objective, fair and accurate as we can make them."

Avakian. The editor's introductory note tells us how "residents of the Gaza Strip have endured military occupation since 1967, when Israel captured this narrow patch of land from Egypt."

water supply, in modernizing local agriculture, industry and marketing, in providing housing (which met with vehement Arab and UN opposition).

Jerusalem or the Temple Mount. In Mairson's account, too, the Arabs didn't launch a war of annihilation against Israel in 1948. All that happened was that "The Arabs rejected the [UN] partition proposal], and... the fighting began..."

The mediocrats disease

SHABBAT SHALOM

By RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN

"God said to Moses: 'Why are you crying out to Me? Speak to the Israelites, and let them start moving. Raise your staff and extend your hand over the sea. You will split the sea, and the Israelites will be able to cross over on dry land.'" (Ex. 14:15)

Egypt rather than die in the desert. God responds by declaring to Moses: "Why are you crying out to Me? Speak to the Israelites, and let them start moving."

be involved in the same controversy. Commenting on Leviticus 26:11, Nahmanides writes that although Judaism allows you to go to a doctor, it is nevertheless within the prerogative of any patient to reject medical intervention, for the individual who relies solely on the Almighty may be on a higher religious level of faith than the individual who subjects himself to a doctor's decisions.

thrice daily in the Amidah: "Please, return to Jerusalem, Your city... Blessed are You, O Lord, builder of Jerusalem? It is God who is to restore Jerusalem, and not Zionist Jews!"

The other says: "Don't worry, because worry alone accomplishes nothing. Have confidence that eventually God's plan will come to fruition, but exactly when and how depends at least as much on us as it does on Him."



FUNDS

A letter of appreciation

By BEVERLEE BLACK

One of the pleasures of our work is hearing how much it is appreciated. The following is a letter of thanks from a pensioner whose wife received help from the Forsake Me Not Fund.

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Stocks fall on rate pessimism

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Stock indexes fell amid pessimism the Bank of Israel won't cut interest rates when it decides monetary policy in days ahead.

Declining shares on the Maof Index included banks. Bank Hapoalim fell 1%, Bank Leumi fell 2%, and Discount Bank fell 0.25%.

The country's largest holding companies, including Clal (Israel) and Koor, led losses. Clal fell 1 percent and Koor fell 1.5%. Bezeq declined 1.75% after government officials said they intend to sell more shares in the company.

The Maof Index fell 0.65% to 249.35 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.43% to 240.59.

The general bond index rose 0.1%. In the week, the Maof Index rose 0.5% and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.6%.

Of 969 shares trading across the exchange, about eight shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 116.3m. (\$35.2m.) worth of shares changed hands, NIS 29.7m. below Wednesday's level and about 37% higher than December's daily average of NIS 84.6m.

Investors had been optimistic Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel would reduce rates until money supply figures came out in recent days, said Meir Israel's MI money rose 2.2% in December from November.

Due to technical difficulties, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange data does not appear. We apologize for the inconvenience.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

London leads Europe's latest bull run

LONDON (Reuters) - Major European bourses hit fresh closing peaks yesterday as favorable currency movements boosted prospects for exporters, injecting new life into the current bull run.

London stocks raced ahead to finish at a record for the fifth time this year as a suddenly weakening pound bled out the promise of bigger profits for overseas-earning companies.

Paris also broke into uncharted territory to make a record close, led by a boom in financial shares.

Stockholm, Brussels, Zurich, Oslo, and Helsinki also posted records in a hectic day of trading for European bourses.

But London was the star in Europe's latest bull run thanks to the pound and a growing belief that British base rates would remain steady for the foreseeable future.

"The theme of today has been sterling," one dealer said. "It's helped the dollar-earners which has pushed the market higher."

Investors, with an eye on the weaker pound, went on a buying spree, trading the FTSE index up by 1.25 percent to a record close of 4,271.5 points, eclipsing the previous best set on Wednesday.

Sterling was battered overnight in Asia as a sell-off in the currency dragged down it from Wednesday's 52-month record levels against the mark. It was at 2,672.4 marks in late European trading, five pence below its 2,724.0 high of yesterday.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow plunges 94 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks plunged yesterday afternoon as a jump in interest rates triggered an avalanche of profit-taking, yanking the Dow Jones industrial average back from its first post-1995 high of 6,900.

The Dow, up more than 56 points shortly after 2 p.m., slid to a loss of nearly 108 points before steadying and finishing with a drop of 94.28 points at 6,755.75. Despite the drop, the Dow has still advanced about 4.8 percent this year.

Broader measures also fell sharply after spending most of the session at record levels. The Dow had rallied as a series of impressive earnings reports from United Technologies, McDonald's and Texaco helped make a scant memory out of Wednesday's disappointment over IBM's results.

But the momentum died as bonds turned lower, boosting interest rates, as the market absorbed a new supply of securities from a government auction of \$12.5 billion in new 5-year Treasury notes.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Stock Name, Price, Change, and Market Index (NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT, etc.).

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NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES: DJ Industrial 8787.24 -0.47, NYSE Composite 11850.53 -0.37, etc.

Other stock market indexes: FTSE 100 4271.5 -0.4, Nikkei 12331.0 -0.2, etc.

Israeli stocks in US: NYSF AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC, Am Tel 45.75 -0.05, etc.

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**Presidents' choice**  
Marlene Post, (left), president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., poses with her predecessors (left to right) Bernice Tannenbaum, Ruth Popkin, Roz Matzkin, Debbie Kaplan and Charlotte Jacobson, at Beth Hatefusoth in Ramat Aviv yesterday as part of the group's current Midwinter Conference. (Avi Hayson)

**DENIES**

Continued from Page 1

didate for attorney-general, to take on the position, but he refused because he was Deri's attorney and Deri had not released him from his commitment. The Avi-Yitzhak appointment did not go through because he refused, and not because of any blackmail on Deri's part," Hanegbi argued. Hanegbi promised yesterday that the name of the government's new candidate for attorney-general would be made public this Sunday. He challenged Channel 1 to make public or turn over to the police details of its assertion that Bar-On had appointed attorney-general as part of a plea bargain conspiracy with Deri. Bar-On resigned his appointment after three days in the face of scathing press and opposition onslaughts. Channel 1 claimed last night that his appointment had been suggested by Likud activist David Appel to Deri, who made a deal with Bar-On to plead guilty to a misdemeanor in order to pave his way back to the cabinet. Deri reportedly recorded Bar-On's promise on tape and then made Bar-On's appointment a condition for Shas remaining in the coalition and supporting the Hebron agreement. "This is so serious that it cannot be treated as just another unproven and unprovable press allegation," said Hanegbi. "If reporter Ayala Hasson is so confi-

dent of her story, then as a good citizen she must turn over whatever evidence she possesses to the authorities. She should hand in all the information to the police or make it public. Personally I know all this is unequivocally baseless." He added that "up until the very end of the process Bar-On was not even the leading candidate for the office of attorney-general and was hardly in a position to engage in such extortionist conspiracies." Bar-On demanded yesterday to be left alone. "I am a private citizen once more and do not crave or deserve press attention," he announced. "All this conspiracy talk is trash and wicked nonsense. I could not have made Deri any promises and he could have recorded none, because I had not seen him for years and even that was a very cursory acquaintance." Deri is considering suing Hasson and ITV for slander, he said. "The television has really gone insane this time," Appel said. "This is so utterly absurd, so far-fetched, and so unfounded that words just fail me. All I can say is that it is a rank lie and that I find myself in the position of the proverbial fellow whose sister is said to be a prostitute, regardless of his loud protests that he doesn't even have a sister. I shudder to think what they can invent next. The citizens of this country are defenseless against such concoctions. It's frightening."

**OPPOSITION**

Continued from Page 1

concoction intended to appoint an attorney-general whose job would be to let defendants off the hook in exchange for their political support in the coalition. This is a Sicilian culture incompatible with a state of law and it must be investigated." Merom said he will see to it that the Knesset also debates the issue, "because if anyone concocted a brew intending to take over the Attorney-General's Office and subject it to political decisions, they must be investigated." Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said that if the report is substantiated, "then it seems they were not looking for an attorney-general but for someone willing to act as a conciliator, and we know who uses conciliator and where." Sarid, who filed a complaint to Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and urged Arbel to investigate the affair, said that in an affair of such gravity, the denials of the persons involved are not enough, and their actions must be examined. Israel Radio's legal commentator Moshe Negbi said if the report is true, "then this is the worst case of criminal corruption the state of Israel has ever known, which overshadows not only the Bus 300 Affair but even the Watergate affair. It's an attempt of apparently criminal elements to take over the top of the justice system."

**SWISS**

Continued from Page 1

Holocaust memorial fund much larger than 100 million Swiss francs. The fund is part of Berne's efforts to calm criticism that the neutral country cynically exploited the war, including claims Swiss banks hoarded accounts left by Holocaust victims and that the central bank bought looted Nazi gold.

**KABARITI**

Continued from Page 1

Hussein blamed Netanyahu for an "arrogance of power." Rifai has said that Jordan could anticipate a visit by Netanyahu to Jordan, but did not believe it would occur before the end of Ramadan on February 9. At the same time, Israeli and Jordanian officials could exchange views in advance of Netanyahu's visit to Washington next month. In his letter, Kabariti praised the Israeli and Palestinian leaders for reaching a Hebron deal, and hoped peace would gain as a result. "We salute the leadership of Israel and the Palestinian people for their courage and fortitude in overcoming the numerous obstacles which delayed signing the agreement," it read.

**ROAD**

Continued from Page 10

include widening the coastal strip from Rosh Ha'ayin in the south to Netanya in the north, only 12 kilometers from the old 1967 border. The Palestinians would have access to cities along the Green Line such as Kalkilya and Tulkarm via corridors similar to what the Israelis used before the Six Day War. Other corridors would extend from the Palestinian rump in the territories to other border areas such as Beit Jala, just outside Jerusalem, and Jenin, near Mount Gilboa. For their part, the Israelis would establish enclaves of settlements and IDF locations around Inza and Samaria, the Jordan Valley included. Isolated Jewish communities that could not be included in an enclave would be connected to the rest of Israel by a corridor that would adjoin Palestinian territory. "The map would look like a series of interlaced fingers," one government source says.

The Gaza Strip would involve a different approach. Here, government sources sound vague and appear ready to make most of their territorial concessions to the Palestinians. IN AN interview on Channel 1 on Wednesday, Netanyahu listed his goals in final-status talks. They are that Jerusalem remain under

Israeli sovereignty; Israel maintains Jewish settlements as well as security zones; and that any Palestinian entity will be incapable of threatening Israel. Sources close to Netanyahu say the government will abide by two principles in conducting negotiations with the Palestinians. One is that the prime minister will not renounce the Oslo accords despite his belief that the process endangers Israel. But progress in the negotiations will be linked to Palestinian compliance to the accords, particularly in the areas of amending the Palestinian covenant, extradition of terrorist suspects to Israel, cooperation in the fight against terrorism and an end to hostile propaganda. The second principle is that Israel must be ready to set limits to its concessions and stick by them. Even those close to Netanyahu acknowledge that the prime minister has not abided by this during the negotiations on the Hebron accord, particularly in the deadlines for the further redeployments.

The aim of these guidelines is to dismiss the view that the Oslo process is what the US terms a "slippery slope," whereby Israel continues to slide uncontrollably down the path of concessions regardless of whether the accords with the Palestinians result in peace. Foreign Minister David Levy suggests that his government's approach must be under-

stood by the international community, which he regards as having been far too impatient with the pace of the talks. "Who will want to come to a place where in every argument, somebody yells 'Hamas'?" Levy said on Wednesday to foreign ambassadors based in Israel. "And when I say Hamas, I mean the organization. There must be an awareness that nothing will be resolved through violence."

As Israeli policymakers see it, the final status of the territories will involve long and painstaking talks to resolve, in a piecemeal fashion, the question of borders and the powers of a Palestinian entity. The process will go way beyond the May 1999 deadline for the completion of final-status talks. The optimists say it could take decades. In the meantime, Israeli officials want to achieve a peace treaty with Syria that will remove the Arab military threat from the northern border and ensure normalization for the lion's share of the Middle East.

"We must be ready to say no to the Palestinians and understand that if we say no and stick to it, the PLO has no option," a government source says. "Unlike the last government, we cannot panic. The PLO can launch terror and then we will eliminate them. The Arabs have no option for war, except limited war."

**AMERICA**

Continued from Page 10

and invite him to Washington. Before Netanyahu - not to mention his harder-line coalition partners - realizes it, he is making concessions he never would have dreamed of giving otherwise. Ironically, Arafat, the man most responsible for reintroducing a direct US role, also constantly accuses America of being biased toward Israel. At the end of the Hebron negotiations, he allowed King Hussein to be brought in to give him the fig-leaf of agreeing to another go-between. But this was mere pretense. Why would Arafat want to accept a mediator who he says favors his opponent? Of course, charging the US with anti-Palestinian bias has become another instrument for Arafat to seek more concessions. He hopes that the US will deliver Israel. But the Palestinian leader might find himself tied up into a package instead. An American mediator is less likely to quarrel with Netanyahu, press Israel too hard, or give Arafat everything he declares him a great statesman, and the US itself may regret having

jumped back into the swamp of Israel-Palestinian negotiations. While the two sides asked them to do so, Clinton has not been reluctant to reenter the picture, rushing, unsuccessfully, to invite Netanyahu and Arafat for a Washington meeting at the time of the Hebron massacre and successfully after last September's rioting. His intervention can be said to have preserved the peace process. But saving Israel and the Palestinians from facing the consequences of failure, and knowledge that they must work out an agreement themselves, are the factors really forcing them toward progress. When both sides know they must resolve an issue - or pay the consequences - it gives them a tremendous incentive to make a deal. The best thing the US can do is to step back and let them deal directly with each other again. Without doubt, US mediation played a critical role in completing the Hebron agreement. But perhaps, unintentionally, it also made the situation harder to resolve.

**BLIND**

Continued from Page 1

of Music in Boston. The center, which encourages blind people to find and develop their individual talents, is funded almost entirely through private contributions and donations. It only had enough money for insurance cover against accidents, but not equipment. "Since the story appeared in The Jerusalem Post we have received calls from people from all over the country offering to help," said Lillian Cohen, who is in charge of program development at the center.

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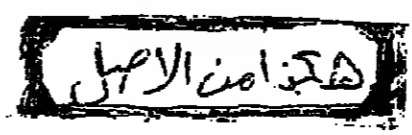
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# No place like home for Olympiakos

By BRIAN FREEMAN

## Maccabi Tel Aviv stumbles to 69-60 loss to Greek champs

Maccabi Tel Aviv wasted an excellent opportunity to win only its second game in Greece this decade, losing to Olympiakos 69-60 to fall into fifth place in the Euro League's Group E last night.

The Israelis held as much as a seven-point lead with only three seconds remaining in the first half before shooting only 32 percent after the break and committing too many costly errors to contain the Greeks.

Foreign star David Rivers and veteran Panagiotis Fassoulas led the comeback for Olympiakos, which improved its mark to 7-6, the same as Maccabi's.

CSKA Moscow, 72-67 winners over hosts Charleroi, is also at 7-6, but Maccabi has already lost its two games to the Russians and thus sits in fifth place, with only three games remaining in the pool. Only the top four teams from each group advance to the Final 16.

Olympiakos, which won its sixth consecutive European game on its own court and upped its record to 35-6 there over the last four-plus seasons, exploited the home advantage to the hilt by informing the Israelis that tip-off would be delayed 15 minutes only after Maccabi had already

run through its pre-game warm-ups.

The Israelis got off to a sluggish start, falling behind 8-4 five minutes into the game before all engines kicked into gear.

The team then proceeded to display some of its finest basketball of the season at both ends of the court, going on a 29-19 run for the next 15 minutes.

The entire starting lineup played an excellent team defense, blocking shots, forcing turnovers and closing off the lane, all while staying out of foul trouble.

Maccabi also held Rivers to

only four points during that span, thanks in large part to Zvi Sherf's decision to start Derrik Sharp with the specific task of containing the speedy point guard.

On offense, the Israelis demonstrated a patience and intelligence that resulted in 56% shooting and few mental errors.

Nadav Henefeld, who had eight points and three assists at the break, and Randy White, who collected nine points and pulled down five rebounds during the half were particularly impressive.

However, events turned on Maccabi at the start of the second

half, as the officials called a flurry of fouls on the Israelis that suddenly put both Henefeld and White in trouble.

When White collected his fourth foul and went to the bench with 13:47 remaining in the game, Maccabi still held a 39-37 advantage.

But his replacement, Constantine Poga, was no match for the big Greek men inside. Not only could he not rebound effectively, but he failed to score a basket, committed a needless foul and then turned the ball over that led to an Olympiakos basket which gave them the lead for good at 44-43

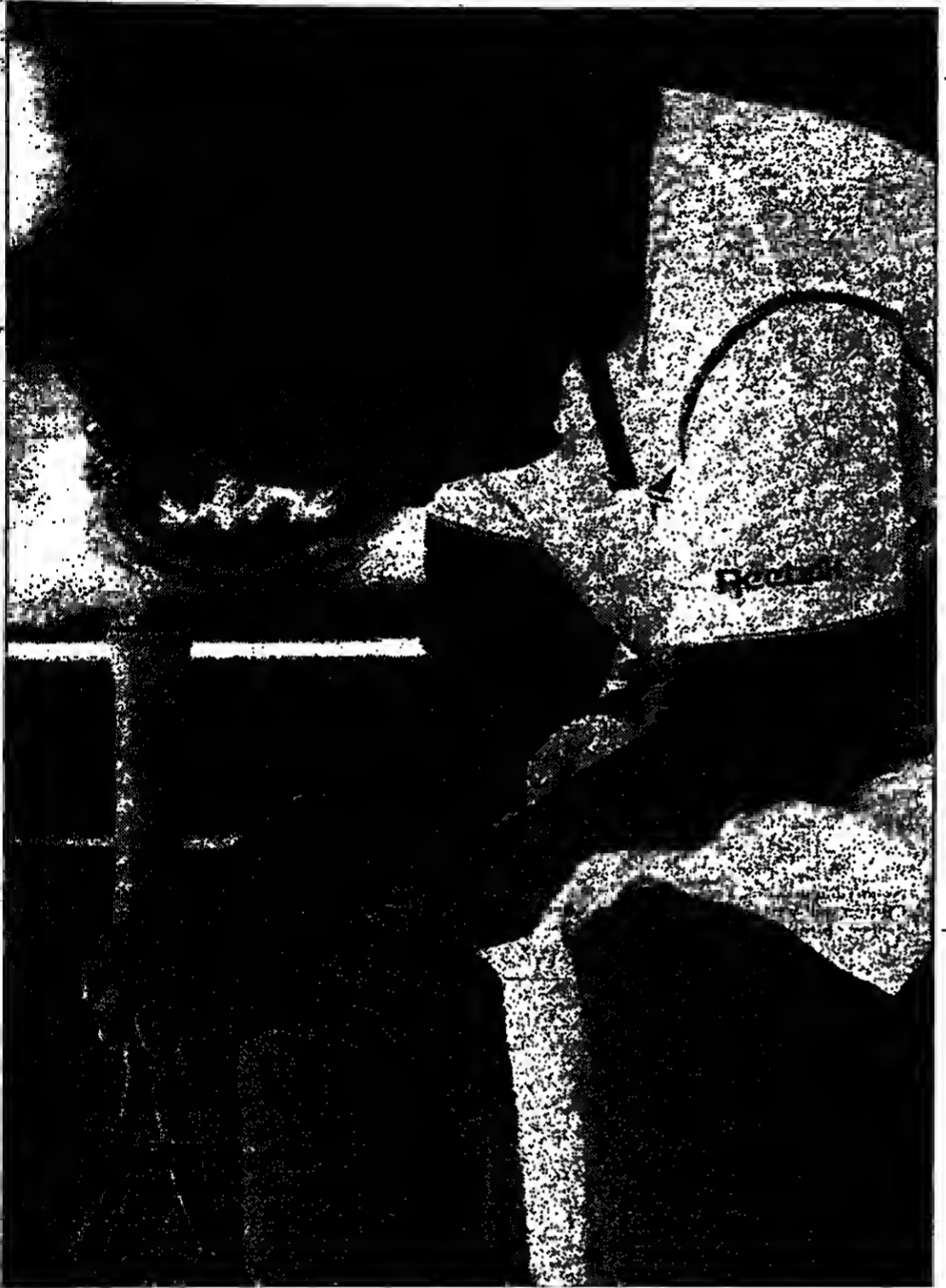
with 11 minutes left in the game.

Maccabi had a golden opportunity to get back into the contest with 4:20 left when Doron Sheffer, an 83% free-throw shooter entering the contest, went to the line with Maccabi down 60-57.

However, he proceeded to miss both his shots and the Greeks went on to increase the margin.

Rivers, who did not have Sharp guarding him for the first seven minutes of the second half after Sherf elected out to start him after the break, was the major factor, tenaciously penetrating Maccabi's defense to score and

Group E	W	L	Pts
Stefanel Milan	8	3	21
Alba Berlin	7	4	20
Olympiakos	7	5	20
CSKA Moscow	7	6	20
Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	6	20
Charleroi	0	13	13



HARD TIMES - Michael Chang hangs his head after losing in the Australian Open yesterday. (Reuter)

# Hingis heads to history, Chang heads home

MELBOURNE (Reuter) — Martina Hingis headed towards history at the Australian Open yesterday as world No. 2 Michael Chang saw his title hopes crushed by an unseeded Spaniard.

Hingis, 16, aiming to become the youngest grand slam champion in modern tennis, looked almost invincible as she ousted veteran American Mary Joe Fernandez in the semifinals.

Her opponent in tomorrow's women's final will be France's Mary Pierce, who was at her fired-up best against South African Amanda Coetzer in the other semifinal.

But the day's biggest upset belonged to Spain's Carlos Moya, who took his achievements to new heights by defeating second seed Chang. Moya, world ranked 25, eliminated defending champion Boris Becker in the first round.

"Today I did something big, I played in an unbelievable way," said Moya after his 7-5 6-2 6-4 win.

Chang has not won a grand slam title since lifting the French Open as a 17-year-old in 1989, but has played the most consistent tennis of any major name in Melbourne.

Moya, a languid Spanish baseliner, seemed unimpressed by Chang's reputation, quickly establishing his dominance on the baseline and

coming forward as Chang's shots fell short.

"I knew before the match that I had to take risks to beat him, if you stay on the baseline against him you lose," said Moya, who has won just two titles, both on clay.

Chang made a third set challenge, building up a 3-1 and 40-15 lead on his serve, but Moya managed to step up his game and prevent the match dragging out into a fourth set.

World No. 4 Hingis was even more impressive as she thrashed 14th seed Fernandez.

At 16 years, three months and 26 days on the day of the final, she could become the youngest grand slam champion since amateur Lottie Dod won the first of her five Wimbledon titles in 1887 at the age of 15 years and 10 months.

"I just played an unbelievable match," said Hingis after her 6-1 6-3 victory. "I wasn't nervous at all and I played very good tennis."

Hingis had promised to play an up-front, aggressive game against the 14th seed, but she hardly needed to. She hovered around the baseline slamming perfectly-judged passing shots and dictating the pace of the match for all but a brief period.

Fernandez, who broke Hingis's serve once in the first set without holding her own, saved two match points at 5-1 in the second as Hingis angrily questioned a line-call.

Serving for the match at 5-2, Hingis distract-

edly allowed herself to be broken again.

Fernandez continued to grow in confidence but Hingis stepped up a gear, breaking her opponent's serve with a fierce forehand pass across court to wrap up victory in 69 minutes.

Hingis's next opponent — some would say victim — will be 1995 champion Pierce, who beat 12th seed Coetzer 7-5, 6-1 and said she was hungry to repeat her triumph of two years ago.

"Last year in Paris if someone had told me that I would be here now, I wouldn't have believed them," said Pierce, who took three months off the game last year to overcome a prolonged slump in form and a shoulder injury.

"I was going through hard times."

Pierce served and passed the ball deep into Coetzer's court to build up a 5-1 first set lead, but saw Coetzer break her next two service games to even the score.

The South African beat world No. 1 Steffi Graf in the fourth round and Pierce's fans in the crowd began to fear that her fragile confidence would once again let her down.

But Pierce held her nerve and serve in the next game before breaking Coetzer with a cracking forehand pass to win the set.

The second men's semifinal, between world No. 1 Pete Sampras and Austrian fifth seed Thomas Muster, will be played today. The men's final is on Sunday.

# State Cup ties could spring surprises

By DEREK FATTAI

After a two-week layoff, its back to action for the clubs that make up the National League. However, this weekend all 16 members of the top flight will be facing unfamiliar opposition in the eighth round of the State Cup. This is the first round of the knock-out competition involving National League clubs, and a seeding system has been adopted to ensure that they are all matched against teams from the lower divisions.

As is invariably the case at least one of the big boys is likely to meet its come-uppance at the hands of a minnow. With the weekend's Toto prize standing at a tempting NIS 10 million, the punters who can successfully predict what fate has in store will literally be laughing all the way to the bank.

There will be no replays as all matches will go to extra time and penalties to ensure a final result.

The most intriguing fixture of all pits fifth division Maccabi Ma'aleh Admunim against the team at the bottom of the National League, Hapoel Taiba. This sym-

bolic clash between representatives from the Arab sector and the settlement bloc has all the makings of a classic cup encounter.

Ma'aleh Admunim wanted to play the match at their home ground but following consultations with the police the game is being played at Teddy Stadium tomorrow, which should make life easier for the Taibeans. Nevertheless, Maccabi club chairman Amnon Aaronson was in buoyant mood before the media yesterday and confidently stated that his side should make it through to the next round.

Ironi Rishon LeZion looks to be one of the most surprising National sides as it faces Division Two leaders Hapoel Ashkelon away from home this afternoon. The going could also get tough for Maccabi Petah Tikva which hosts the young gifted outfit that has been developed at Maccabi Netanya which currently lies second in the Second Division.

Moshe Sinai ended yesterday's training session at Hapoel Tel Aviv 15 minutes ahead of schedule, and sharply berated his players for failing to take their preparations

for tomorrow's visit to Ironi Ashdod seriously. The match is Sinai's farewell game as coach with the trouble-stricken reds, and marks the end of an era for the man who became a legend as a player with the club in its better days.

Hapoel Haifa will take to the field at the Gaon Stadium this afternoon without Tal Banin against Maccabi Be'er Sheva, and will have to keep an eagle eye on Jaffa's Avivi Zohar who has been in hot form in front of goal

recently.

For those starry-eyed fans who savor the romance of the Cup, check out the fixture between as-yet-unbeaten National League leader Be'er Sheva and Third Division Hapoel Yehud for what will be the shock of the season if Yehud can pull off a victory.

Other surprising upheavals could occur in the fixtures between Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Hod Hasharon, and in Maccabi Herzliya's match against Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin.

# South Africa takes the initiative

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AP) — Gary Kirsten and Daryl Cullinan combined for a 111-run partnership that helped South Africa reach 270 runs for four wickets in its day-night cricket international yesterday against India.

The score, a run rate of 5.4 over the allotted 50 overs, left India with a daunting challenge in its innings later yesterday in the first contest of a tri-nation series that also includes Zimbabwe.

Kirsten keyed the South African run-making, scoring 73 and combining with Cullinan for 111 runs that steadied the innings.

South Africa innings  
A. Hudson c Tendulkar b Prasad 15  
G. Kirsten c Singh b Prasad 73  
L. Kousener run out Srivasth 15  
D. Cullinan c Jadeja b Kumble 51  
J. Rhodes not out 57  
L. George not out 44  
Extras 15  
Total (for 4 wickets) 270 — 50 overs  
Fall of wickets: 1/28 2/54 3/165 4/168  
Bowling: Srivasth 10-0-60-0 (5w), Prasad 10-1-52-2 (1nb), Africa 10-0-45-0 (1nb), Kurbia 9-0-44-1, Singh 9-0-40-0, Jadeja 3-0-22-0.

# Jackson warns Rodman to watch his step

CHICAGO (AP) — Dennis Rodman sounds unrepentant, but his next foul-up could earn him the heave-ho, Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson warns.

Rodman, a rebounding star with a history of erratic behavior, is three games into an 11-game suspension for kicking a cameraman January 15 in Minneapolis.

Appearing on ABC television's *Primetime Live* Wednesday night, he said the kick was only a "tap."

"I apologized," said Rodman, who has agreed to pay cameraman Eugene Amos \$200,000. "But most people in the world would say he's acting."

"It would have been more of a headache to drag this out like an O.J. trial," the Bulls forward said.

Jackson, in an excerpt aired by Chicago's WLS-TV news but not included in the show, said Rodman "has four fouls and two strikes against him."

"I don't think he has any more strikes," Jackson said.

Neither the bizarre Rodman nor the patient Jackson had publicly commented on the kicking incident before the ABC interviews.

In an interview taped Tuesday night in Newport Beach, California, Rodman criticized NBA commissioner David Stern for requiring him to undergo counseling and then explain why he should be reinstated.

"Don't treat me like a kid. I'm not a kid and you're not my father," he said.

# 76ers snap 13-game losing streak

BOSTON (Reuter) — The Philadelphia 76ers snapped a 13-game losing streak with a 127-125 victory over the Boston Celtics Wednesday as rookie Allen Iverson scored 26 points, including three free throws in the final 30 seconds.

"It was just good to get this win and take some pressure off," Iverson said. "Honestly, I've liked the effort from my teammates. I wasn't frustrated. Hopefully we can build on this."

Jerry Stackhouse scored a season-high 38 points and Rex Walters had career highs of 27 points and nine rebounds and a season-high 11 assists for the 76ers, who avoided the longest losing streak in the NBA this season. The Suns lost their first 13 games.

Stackhouse and the Sixers got some advice from all-time great Julius Erving, who was at the FleetCenter.

"Dr. J was telling me personally to let the game come to me," said Stackhouse. "I think that rubbed off a lot on the other guys."

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Midwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	29	11	.725	—	Houston	31	10	.758	—
New York	28	12	.700	1	Utah	28	13	.683	3
Washington	20	20	.500	9	Minnesota	18	22	.450	12 1/2
Orlando	17	19	.472	10	Dallas	13	25	.342	18 1/2
New Jersey	11	27	.290	17	Denver	12	28	.286	19
Boston	9	28	.243	18 1/2	San Antonio	10	28	.263	19 1/2
Philadelphia	9	31	.225	20	Vancouver	8	34	.190	23 1/2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Chicago	35	5	.875	—	Seattle	30	11	.732	—
Detroit	28	11	.718	6 1/2	L.A. Lakers	29	12	.707	1
Atlanta	26	12	.684	8	Portland	23	18	.561	7
Charlotte	22	17	.562	12	Sacramento	17	24	.417	13
Cleveland	22	17	.562	12 1/2	Golden State	16	23	.410	13
Indiana	19	19	.500	15	L.A. Clippers	14	24	.366	14 1/2
Memphis	19	20	.487	15 1/2	Phoenix	15	26	.366	15
Toronto	14	25	.359	20 1/2					

# Shmerkin places 14th at European championships

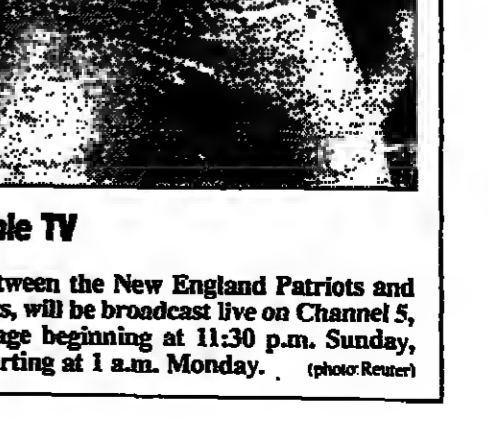
By HEATHER CHAIT

Misha Shmerkin finished his appearance in the European Figure Skating Championships yesterday in Strasbourg, France in 14th place.

In yesterday's free program, Shmerkin fell twice and was left in 15th position. In Wednesday's

technical program Shmerkin had finished in 12th place but his free program brought him down to 14th place overall.

The ice dance pair of Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky, in contrast, improved their 16th placing to an overall 15 by taking 14th position in the original dance program yesterday.



Superbowl XXXI, between the New England Patriots and the Green Bay Packers, will be broadcast live on Channel 5, with pre-game coverage beginning at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, and Prime Sports, starting at 1 a.m. Monday. (Photo: Reuter)

### NHL SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONFERENCE						WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division						Central Division					
Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF/GA	Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF/GA
Philadelphia	27	13	7	61	132/118	Dallas	25	17	4	54	133/114
N.Y. Rangers	24	19	7	55	170/139	Detroit	21	16	9	51	140/107
Florida	22	17	5	51	131/110	St. Louis	21	22	4	48	137/151
New Jersey	23	17	5	51	118/114	Phoenix	19	23	4	42	125/150
Washington	20	22	5	45	127/128	Chicago	17	24	6	42	126/133
Tampa Bay	18	21	8	42	131/161	Toronto	18	28	0	36	144/165
N.Y. Islanders	16	23	8	37	125/138						
Northeast Division						Pacific Division					
Pittsburgh	26	15	5	57	171/138	Colorado	28	11	8	64	180/108
Buffalo	22	17	5	53	139/123	Edmonton	21	22	4	47	154/148
Los Angeles	18	20	7	45	133/148	Vancouver	22	21	2	46	147/150
Montreal	18	22	8	44	154/184	Anaheim	18	22	5	41	128/135
Boston	17	23	6	40	135/165	San Jose	17	23	5	39	129/143
Ottawa	14	22	8	36	120/132	Calgary	17	25	5	39	117/140
						Los Angeles	17	25	5	38	127/160

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:

Hartford 2, Florida 1\*  
Buffalo 6, Montreal 1  
Boston 4, Ottawa 1  
N.Y. Islanders 8, Edmonton 1  
N.Y. Rangers 5, Washington 3  
Toronto 5, Calgary 3  
Philadelphia 2, Detroit 2\*  
Philadelphia 4, Chicago 3\*  
San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2  
Anaheim 3, New Jersey 1  
\*in overtime

# Storm continues over 'Emigrants Law'

By LIAT COLLINS

The day after it passed preliminary reading in the Knesset, the bill by MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) which would allow all Israelis with a valid passport to vote abroad in general elections here continued to raise a storm of objections yesterday.

The bill - which has been nicknamed "The Emigrants' Law" - is being criticized by its opponents as "anti-Zionist" and encouraging emigration although its supporters say it will strengthen ties between Israel and citizens abroad. They note it would also be used by tourists and students and that it is similar to the situation elsewhere including the US, UK, Germany and Scandinavian countries. Rivlin estimates that if the bill passes final reading in its current form, some 350,000 emigrants will be able to vote.

Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said yesterday he would raise his own private members bill next week which would grant Israelis the right to vote abroad

only during the first year of their stay. It would also allow tourists and temporary emissaries the right to vote overseas.

"It's not easy to separate between visitors and permanent residents abroad but it's important that only those who will bear the results will be able to vote," Bronfman said.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tzomet) said he voted in favor of Rivlin's bill Wednesday by accident and had not realized what he was voting on. Tzomet leader Rafael Eitan, however, "enthusiastically supports the bill because it's one of the ways to keep the contact between Israelis abroad and the country." He said it could be one of the factors that could ultimately persuade them to return.

"You can't take their right to vote away from them. All the bleeding hearts who object to this bill don't object to asking for donations and money from the same Israelis abroad," he

said. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy voted in favor of the bill Wednesday and helped it pass, 22 to 17.

The National Religious Party is split over the bill. The faction is scheduled to discuss it Monday. Faction Chairman Hanan Porat, MK Avraham Shem and NRP director Zvulun Orlev oppose it. The bill is being prepared for further readings in the Knesset Law Committee chaired by NRP MK Shaul Yahalom, who is also opposed. NRP MKs Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur and Zvi Hendel support the bill.

All Third Way MKs oppose the bill. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon "is vehemently opposed to the bill. Only those who take part in life here and contribute to it should be allowed to vote to decide who will lead it."

MK Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the Labor party leadership, said: "The cynicism of the ostensibly nationalist camp has reached new heights with a proposal which will allow former Israelis who abandoned us to send our children to the next war."



Finding themselves

High school seniors check their bearings yesterday as part of an IDF pre-induction map-reading exercise. (Liaq Harari)

# Netanyahu reviews candidates for science portfolio

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gave an audience to three would-be ministers yesterday, but left them all in limbo. He had spoken previously with a fourth candidate.

All four want to succeed Ze'ev Binyamin Begin as science minister.

Begin resigned in protest over the cabinet approval of the Hebron agreement. MKs Silvan Shalom, Michael Eitan and Shaul Amor are all interested in picking

up his portfolio, as is former MK and Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman. All four say or intimate that they were promised a ministerial appointment or claim they deserve one.

Yesterday Netanyahu heard out Shalom, Amor and Nahman. A day earlier he met with Eitan.

Likud sources believe that of the four Shalom is the front-runner. He was an early supporter of Netanyahu's bid to win the Likud leadership, along with Tzahi Hanegbi and Limor Livnat. However, Nahman too has been

at Netanyahu's side for a long time.

Eitan claimed he was promised a portfolio if one became available and has begun a campaign that has irked many in the Likud. A site was even opened on the Internet in which he was already referred to as science and technology minister.

Amor, who was angry when he didn't win the Knesset Speaker nomination and then frustrated when he wasn't named Likud candidate for president, now warns that the Likud would be in trouble

if he is not appointed.

Sources close to Netanyahu say that Shalom would perhaps be the lesser of evils, but none of the four is fully satisfactory. They would like to see someone like Prof. Yuval Ne'eman or his equivalent in stature appointed. The argument is that Netanyahu came to power with the promise of excellence and not appointments based on horse-trading or political quid pro quo.

The sources say that Netanyahu promised none of the candidates anything.

ANALYSIS

# Voting bill will never pass

By SARAH HONIG

Opponents of the bill to allow Israelis abroad to participate in elections here need not be overly anxious. The chances of such a bill ever being enacted are more than slim. This is the near-consensus of both Left and Right, even if many of the ostensible boosters of the vociferous knockers of Likud MK Reuven Rivlin's initiative will not own up to it for the record. It would spoil a good issue.

The fact that the bill was passed on preliminary reading was a chance occurrence and there are many non-starter precedents that met their swift demise in subsequent Knesset votes. A small number of MKs were present in the plenum, and had just a handful of the Labor members banging around in the halls or the dining room bothered to take part in the vote (which was on the agenda), the bill would not have survived.

The fact that it was supported by the Right, initially at least (as well as by the prime minister and foreign minister), has little to do with Rivlin's unsubstantiated assertion that most of the Israelis abroad lean rightward politically. No one can prove this and anyone who has seen the hosts of kibbutzniks in the greater Los Angeles area will make no rash assumptions. Moreover, the realization that the consequences of the vote will mean no skin off the noses of anyone residing out there could just as easily turn hawks into doves as vice versa.

Rivlin's logic is quite different. Even if we take as axiomatic the idea that Israelis who live permanently abroad are divided along the same proportions as the rest of the Jewish population in Israel, their votes could conceivably help the Right, because they would decrease the proportion of Arab voters and thus also decrease their influence on the outcome.

The Zionist logic lies in not letting anti-Zionists decide the fate and future of the Zionist state. Among the Jewish voters in the recent election, it should be recalled, Netanyahu had a nearly 12 percent majority over Peres, a broad margin which was

narrowed by the Arab vote. But this in itself will not buy the bill. It has never been so much as discussed in any Likud forum and can hardly be considered Likud policy. This will make it difficult to even assure the support of all Likud members. Already Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and hawkish Likudnik Ze'ev Boim have come out against it, as has Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled of the Tzomet faction.

The picture is similar in the rest of the coalition parties. The NRP and Yisrael Ba'aliya are divided and the Third Way is opposed. This is itself makes it unlikely the bill has a viable chance.

Were it to somehow nevertheless survive another reading, it would be either watered down unrecognizably or felled by the legal ramifications. Setting up balloting stations overseas, as Rivlin suggests, may be a mammoth undertaking in itself. But this would pale in comparison to the problems of who would be entitled to vote.

Labor would probably happily underwrite the notion that tourists, students, and certain emissaries be enfranchised. The party complained in past elections that it lost merely because polling day coincided with the summer tourist season, when it assumed that most of the better-off Israelis out to see the world were left-wingers.

But the fact that an Israeli passport is one of the easiest to obtain would give rise to plenty of questions. Will immigrants who stayed here only briefly before seeking greener pastures be considered eligible to vote? Will Jews who deliberately obtain a passport for the express purpose of casting a ballot be eligible? Will expatriates who have been away for decades?

The betting is that if the bill at all lives to see its final reading, it will be a much amended version with which the political mainstream can live. Netanyahu himself is said to hope for a modified version that will erase hardships which he says he had experienced himself when a student temporarily abroad. Despite the fact that he returned for reserve duty, he still could not vote.

### WEATHER

Jerusalem 7-17, Beer Sheva 7-17, Tel Aviv 8-16, Haifa 7-17, Jerusalem 3-11, Beer Sheva 3-11, Tel Aviv 3-11, Haifa 3-11, Jerusalem 10-18, Beer Sheva 10-18, Tel Aviv 10-18, Haifa 10-18

Forecast: Partly cloudy in the morning, local rain in center and south of the country. Sheilat: Partly cloudy to clear, gradual rise in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Conditions
Amsterdam	4	12	cloudy
Berlin	6	10	clear
Buenos Aires	22	28	clear
Chgo	18	24	clear
Chicago	-6	21	precip
Copenhagen	1	14	clear
Frankfurt	9	14	clear
Haifa	10	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	24	rain
London	10	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	25	clear
Madrid	12	24	clear
Moscow	5	12	clear
New York	15	22	cloudy
Paris	9	18	cloudy
Rome	13	20	clear
Stockholm	1	12	precip
Sydney	18	25	precip

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